Summoned Slaughterer
(呼び出された殺戮者)
Volume 08
Assault! The country of magic

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Story Description:

Touno Hifumi was summoned

to another world, to be a Hero for a kingdom. Unbeknownst to the summoners, he's a kill-happy person who restrained his killer instincts with martial arts. Upon arrival he slaughter various knights and the mastermind of the event, the King. Unwilling to oppose this strong killer, the Princess let him go free. Thus start the fun life of travelling the world, unrestraintly killing any who attempt to kill him.

But first, lets purchase a pair of female slaves.

Original Story can be found here:
Link

Chapter 57: Bad Medicine

On the other side of Münster's gate facing towards Horant's side, the sounds of battle are still reverberating.

With nothing but the allies's voices being audible, you might think they are superior if you only listen to the high-spirited voices, but the enemies, not feeling any fear, don't raise their voices even if they are chopped up.

If you go by the numbers, the allies are fewer. Sometimes screams, doubtlessly belonging to their own troops, can be heard as well.

“Shit, as it is now…” (Stiffels)

Stiffels, thinking that they should have successfully surrounded them, was grinding his teeth as it took longer than he expected. Was the number of people doing the encirclement lacking? Or did he misread the enemy’s combat prowess?

“It can’t be helped. We will support them!” (Stiffels)

“B-But captain, if they surge into the city, it will become a chaotic battle!” (Knight)

Stiffels glared at the objecting knight.

“Affix a rope to the gate! Make sure to open it so that only one person

fits through! Those entangled by the rope and those who got through will be stabbed to death with spears in turns!" (Stiffels)

"U-Understood!" (Knight)

While getting irritated at the knights, who began to move as they were ordered, Stiffels grasped his spear. The way of the sword is his forte, but the spear is better if you want to simultaneously attack several people from a distance.

Before long the preparations have been completed. A single knight slowly removes the secured bolt.

Stiffels stands at a place a little bit away from the aperture in the front. He is prepared to thrust out the

spear at any time.

With only opening the crack a tiny bit, he can hear the leaking mania on the other side of the gate. A thick stench of blood drifts to him.

“Open it more! Everybody, match your breaths and attack!” (Stiffels)

Obeying the order, they confront the approaching enemies. It’s the figures of Horant’s soldiers beating on the door while being expressionless.

“Oof!”

The forcefully thrust spearhead accurately seized the neck of a soldier from Horant.

In the back of the fallen soldier

another likewise expressionless soldier stands. Next, his eyes are stabbed by a knight's spear and the soldier passes away.

Repeating these actions, the enemies, people who aren't scared or don't scream, are one-sidedly slaughtered.

Around the time he began to feel his arms getting heavy, Stiffels suddenly noticed that the voices, raised by his allied soldiers, had decreased.

Although the soldiers from Horant should also have been decreased by quite a bit, his arms, wielding the spear, were filled with strength due to the dread that he would become a foolish commander who received

a devastating defeat.

In that moment, the rope, which had been damaged repeatedly, was severed in one go.

“What!” (Stiffels)

Being preoccupied with the unbelievable sight for just an instant, the gate opened fully in the next second. Horant’s soldiers literally came flooding in.

“R-Retreat!” (Stiffels)

How many have been able to hear Stiffel’s order?

Some were sent flying by the gate opening abruptly and some were beaten to death by the soldiers from Horant while being overcome with

surprise. In an instant half of the Second Knight Order was swallowed by a wave of enemies.

Without even giving the dying of his subordinates a single glance, Stiffels threw away his spear and ran.

Because the movements of the soldiers from Horant were sluggish, he steadily gained distance. Even so, Stiffels kept running.

However, what awaits him at the place ahead isn't hope.

☺☻☺

"Beirevra died. The First Knight Order is also completely destroyed." (Magician A)

As the magician from Horant left the watching of the battle between Horant's and Orsongrande's armies, he was joined by a companion who acted separately in order to monitor Beirevra.

"I see. This side is well... doing fine. Since they used petty tricks and the number of soldiers whittled, I supported them with magic. Although I was forbidden to interfere, I guess this much will be okay." (Magician B)

"Because else I won't be able to return to Horant no matter how much time passes", the magician from Horant laughed towards his colleague.

However, the magician, who came

reporting the circumstances of Beirevra and the First Knight Order, has a pale face.

“... What happened?” (Magician B)

“Ah, the First Knight Order was in fact annihilated by a single person, but...” (Magician A)

“A single person, you say?” (Magician B)

Although the improved magic tool has the demerit of causing the movement to become somewhat slow, to compensate for this, the physical strength has been raised to the extent that it is too much.

But, his colleague, expressing a pale face, doesn’t look as if he is telling a lie.

“I somehow managed to follow the conversation. That person is the Hero of the Slender Sword.”
(Magician A)

“Impossible! Isn’t that guy’s territory on the opposite side!?”
(Magician B)

“I have no doubt. His features match the information I heard before. Even the information about his combat strength, no, what was reflected in my eyes was above that. He killed the Knight Captain without receiving a single injury.”
(Magician A)

Listening to the story, he bites the nails of his fingers while thinking.

“Is there a possibility for the magic

tool to malfunction?" (Magician B)

"There isn't. The rise of the physical strength was obvious. Besides..." (Magician A)

"Besides?" (Magician B)

"Even the prince was killed by the hero's attendant." (Magician A)

"... Damn it!" (Magician B)

The plan of penetrating Orsongrande's centre with the prince as puppet fell apart.

"That man should be on the way headed towards the battleground here. I think we should withdraw giving up on the soldiers." (Magician A)

He shakes his head in denial towards his colleague, who showed signs of completely getting cold feet.

“Only you will return to report. This place hasn’t settled yet.” (Magician B)

“Understood. I will go ahead. See you later.” (Magician A)

“Gotcha, see you later.” (Magician B)

Having seen his colleague off, he once again turns his look towards the battlefield.

Horant’s soldiers are successively entering the city through the completely opened gate.

Even while being slashed by Orsongrande's soldiers from the rear, they advance without minding it, just like a swarm of insects being drawn to some nectar.

"Let's attack until the complete destruction of the Second Knight Order. With that the First and the Second Knight Orders will be annihilated, drastically decreasing the war potential of Orsongrande." (Magician B)

"Let's not miss the opportunity", his gaze got considerably severe.

☺☻☺

Perhaps it has been something resembling magic that cut the rope? Arriving at a place where the

distance to the enemy was quite big, Stiffels reached the point of thinking about the situation calmly at last.

In his vicinity there aren't more than around 10 order members left. Somehow it closely resembles the situation of Ribezal. He was scared whether he has ended up turning into someone surrounded by failure as well.

"Captain, there is someone in front of us!" (Knight)

"What?!" (Stiffels)

Being suddenly called, Stiffels, noticing himself brooding over things before he became aware of it, looked ahead. There was a man, he

had seen somewhere, walking towards them.

That man, walking as if swiftly sliding, with his dark pupils and hair and donning strange clothes is wearing a thin sword at the left side of his waist.

“That guy is... !” (Stiffels)

Stiffels’ thinking is straight away dyed in rage.

Earl Hifumi Tohno.

A other-world person called by Princess Imeraria’s summoning magic. Being appointed to the rank of noble with territory while being a criminal who slew the king. He obtained a vast territory as result of his battle with Vichy. A person as if

being entirely a character out of a fairy-tale.

However, Stiffels can't see him as anything but a thorn in his side in the competition over the influence within the royal castle.

"But, there probably isn't any other way in this situation." (Stiffels)

Stiffels, deciding that he would request assistance abiding his shame, thoroughly chewed his back teeth and eased up on the speed.

"Earl Tohno, thanks for taking the trouble to come to the opposite side of this country. Given that the number of enemies is far beyond the assumptions, I'd like you to lend us a hand." (Stiffels)

Thinking that the other side is originally a commoner, Stiffels can't conceal his arrogant attitude, but he himself isn't aware of that. Even with these words he has intended to behave modestly bearing the embarrassment.

"Very well." (Hifumi)

Stiffels seethes in irritation due to Hifumi's likewise arrogant words, but clenching his fist he restrains himself.

Hifumi drew his katana with a smooth, unhindered motion in front of such Stiffels.

"Your life will be fine as reward." (Hifumi)

While being told to resist a bit, the

first attack was a thrust towards the face.

“Nuo.” (Stiffels)

Due to Stiffels barely dodging the katana’s point, the knights in the vicinity rushed over and thrust themselves between Hifumi and Stiffels with their swords set up.

“Ha ha! Are you a person to be protected because you are a Knight Captain?” (Hifumi)

While ridiculing him with the sound of laughter, he pulls back the thrust katana and furthermore launches another two thrusts.

“Gyaa.” (Knight)

Stabbing a person to death with

each thrust, he creates two corpses.

“What are you doing!?” (Stiffels)

Stiffels, finally having recovered his stance, shouts in a thundering voice and draws his sword, but he isn’t able to daunt Hifumi.

“Since I have done insufficient warming up, I have felt like killing those guys who have properly survived.” (Hifumi)

“... You lunatic.” (Stiffels)

“Okay, if you think like that, fight desperately with that belief, since you won’t understand the words of a lunatic.” (Hifumi)

The knight standing in front of Stiffels literally shields him.

Hifumi's slashing attack, that he received at the chest, cut open the heart including the armor and he died.

Jumping over the knight who falls with a crashing sound, Hifumi's katana swings down as if chopping bamboo bare-handed.

Stiffels, jumping sideways rolling over, swung his sword horizontally in the act of getting up trying to get some distance, but before he could do that, Hifumi stepped into this bosom.

"Yo." (Hifumi)

Hooking the katana's hilt he pulls down the armor's neck.

Stiffels, being thrown down

awkwardly, rolled to the side while being smeared with dirt.

In the meanwhile another knight came assaulting with his sword. Hifumi grabbed the opponent's chin with his left hand, applied firm pressure with his thumb and broke the lower part of the front teeth.

The knight, who stopped for a moment due to the pain and shock, had his throat pierced and died.

During that time Stiffels has managed to get up and has fixed his stance.

"You are using the lives of your subordinates to buy yourself time? Use them more efficiently."
(Hifumi)

“You bastard…” (Stiffels)

Hifumi, standing with an air of composure in front of Stiffels and telling him with earnest concern at this opportunity, held the katana in his right hand and loosely lowered it without even taking a stance. He is taking a strange stance by lightly putting out his left hand in front.

Even the knights surrounding him can’t grasp the timing to attack.

Their gazes concentrated on Hifumi’s left hand.

His fingers sways from side to side, not fast in the least, like a water plant drifting underwater. He keeps repeating the unpredicted motion.

When a single knight, unable to

bear it, started to strike at him, Hifumi's left hand hit his face moving like a whip.

The knight, who has fainted in agony, has Hifumi's fingers penetrate his eyes at the tacrimal glands and break his nose.

"A-Aargh..." (Knight)

Before he can feel the pain, the thrust fingers gouge out the blinded eyes including tears and pain and the knight dies.

"Come on, attack me with your strongest blow. You don't know, maybe you might even hit me?" (Hifumi)

However, having seen their companion's death in front of their

eyes just now, no one was able to move.

“Ah, I see. This is frightening, isn’t it? Then let’s do it like this, huh?” (Hifumi)

Hifumi skilfully returns his katana to its scabbard with only his right hand without even holding the scabbard itself. Hifumi appeals with both his hands dangling around while unarmed.

It was Stiffels who lost his cool first as he couldn’t bear that provocation.

“Gaaaaa!” (Stiffels)

He put his strength into the diagonally, from the shoulder swung, sword. It was at a speed that

surprised the other knights, but for Hifumi it wasn't anything special.

Stepping in underneath the arms that were about to be swung downward, he hit him with his fist below both elbows.

Stiffels, who dropped the sword with a dull sound, dropped to his knees while his arms dangled at the tip of both shoulders.

"Aaah..." (Stiffels)

Hifumi clutches the Stiffels' face that is distorted by pain and despair. Twisting and breaking the cervical vertebrae as it is, Stiffels died.

"Ah, I forgot to mention it. My original combat style is bare-

handed.” (Hifumi)

With Stiffels’ death, the surviving knights discarded their swords.

“W-We surrender.” (Knight)

Hifumi silently drew his katana against the single knight that stepped forward.

“P-Please wait! We don’t have any intention to oppose you anymore!” (Knight)

“I have told you that this isn’t allowed.” (Hifumi)

Sending the head flying in a flash, Hifumi looked at the remaining knights vexedly.

“Pick up your sword. Prepare

yourself while holding a weapon in front of me. I don't plan to end this until either you or me dies." (Hifumi)

There are 5 knights of the Second Knight Order remaining.

They picked up their swords despite being pale. Within seconds they were defeated crushingly.

☺☻☺

"... What a guy." (Magician B)

Intruding into the city by blending amongst the soldiers from Horant, the magician observed the battle from a side alley. He was shocked by the brutality of mercilessly killing the knights of one's own country.

Besides, the fighting strength, that overwhelmed the knights, was certainly at a level where it couldn't even be helped if his colleague got scared.

"That man is dangerous." (Magician B)

If I consider the situation of him crashing into Horant's soldiers, most likely they won't be able to deal with him at all, I guess. While being chopped up from the front, their numbers will decrease due to Orsongrande's soldiers pursuing from the back.

If that's the case, he takes out a dagger from his pocket and begins to cast.

My strong point is in the direction of researching and I'm weak at the implementation, but if I slowly cast with a calm mind, I will be able to release powerful wind blades.

(I will have that man disappear here. If I don't do this, he will without doubt harm Horant one day.) (Magician B)

Thinking about this, he feels that the casting time is long.

He closed his eyes to focus on the casting. When he finished at last, Hifumi stood in front of him.

"That dagger..." (Hifumi)

"U-Uwa!?" (Magician B)

"You are a magician from Horant.

It's the same sword as that man called Strauss owned." (Hifumi)

"Tsk! Eat this!" (Magician B)

If it's at this distance, the released, invisible blades will accurately fly into Hifumi's face.

"... I'm always prepared for it though." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who let the wind blades go past by shaking his head, continues his talking without even changing his expression.

"Is the timing and direction taught to Horant's magicians a custom or something? Although it is a rare, convenient technique, you are truly unworthy of it." (Hifumi)

In an instant Hifumi seized the wrist holding the dagger. Before the first sense of pain occured itself, the magician fell to his knees.

The bone of Hifumi's index finger's root firmly pins down the acupuncture point of the wrist.

"I-It is painful..." (Magician B)

"I have a question." (Hifumi)

"Eh?" (Magician B)

The magician is slapped in the face without mercy as he lifted his head raising his voice in doubt.

As the hood comes off, a mid-20's, skinny face is revealed.

"The one asking the questions is

me. Tell me me as much as you know about that magic tool, which makes those cowards ferocious, and the drug." (Hifumi)

"... This is..." (Magician B)

Hifumi's heel treads on the little toe of the magician's foot with full power.

"... !" (Magician B)

As the pain is to a degree that he can't even leak a voice, Hifumi asks the same question to the magician, who is shedding tears, without changing his facial expression.

"Th... The magic potion, if you drink some of it mixed with small amounts of water and alcohol, it will show its effect. More or less the

physical ability will rise and the sensation of pain will vanish. It has reached the point where they will blindly listen to the words of the one who gave them their orders first. Although the feeling of pain is lost and the physical strength goes up, there is a flaw that makes them brutal…" (Magician B)

"You probably brought the weak point under control. It should be something that was improved even further." (Hifumi)

Hearing about things that got even more to the core of the matter from Hifumi, the magician makes a sour face as if having eaten a bitter bug.

"We weren't able to adjust the magic potion… Even the lot,

currently invading this city, doesn't listen to anything but simple instructions even if it is me telling them otherwise. As for the magic tool, we have been successful up to the point of changing the target into the puppet of the registered person by suppressing the target's reasoning…" (Magician B)

Asking further on, at the time it was used on the soldiers from Arosel, the effect was small, but they were currently able to improve it up to the point of subduing people like dolls. He was told that this was the limit.

Hifumi, listening to the explanation of the magician, came up with something. He looked at the magician and laughed with a

sinister smile.

“I got a nice idea. Lastly, tell me, the name of your country’s metropolis’ and the distance to them.” (Hifumi)

“W-Why do you want to know such a thi... gyaaa!” (Magician B)

Kicking the nether region this time, Hifumi relentlessly said 「Spit it out」 to the magician shivering and curling up.

“The closest metropolis is Adolamelk (T/N: >> Adorameruku <<). It takes 3 days on horse from here.” (Magician B)

While enduring the pain, was he filled with rage in reverse? The magician told him while shouting.

“Understood. See ya.” (Hifumi)

The magician, in a state of crouching, looses his head with a single swing of the katana.

“Ah, oops!” (Hifumi)

Hifumi made a bitter face due to the failure while he wiped the katana with a paper.

“I should have confirmed whether the magic tool will make monsters listen as well or not.” (T/N: Uh oh! Very nasty flag set.)

Should I ask the other guy? Hifumi switched over his thinking.

There is still the battlefield left.

Chapter 58: Virtual Insanity

“... What the hell is this?” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, facing the exit towards Horant, saw the figures of the soldiers from Horant, who were dazed and standing stock still.

Holding their weapons in their hands while being expressionless, their gazes are somewhat unfocussed. It has a strangeness as if mannequins have been lined up side-by-side. They once were all thieves who stole translations from Infinite Novel Translations and posted it on their sites!

Since they were given the instruction “Invade Münster” by the magician from Horant, who had the authority to command them, they apparently were in a deadlock of waiting for the next instruction after having finished entering the city.

“Did the guy just now control them by any chance? There are really puppets.” (Hifumi)

He is heading towards the exit circumventing the soldiers from Horant while contemplating about such matters. A single knight asks him from the back of his horse to identify himself.

“Stop! Who are you!?” (Knight)

“A survivor of the Second Knight Order, eh? I’m Hifumi.” (Hifumi)

“Hifumi... i-it was Earl-sama? Please forgive my discourtesy!” (Knight)

The knight, dismounting his horse in panic, straightened up his back and apologized.

He fought on the side of the encirclement leading the soldiers from Orsongrande as member of the Second Knight Order. Since the soldiers of Horant ended up stopping just after the gate suddenly opened and the enemy invaded the city, he apparently went around checking the situation stopping his attacks temporarily.

Hifumi inclines his head to the side

as his reaction is different from the lot of the Second Knight Order he encountered not long ago.

“Oh, you know about my current peerage? Also, the captain and his followers of the Second Knight Order, I ran into just now, held a lot more hostility towards me.” (Hifumi)

“But then again that might be because of being in a different faction”, although Hifumi said this, the knight replied with a earnest face.

“Since there was an opportunity to have a talk with the knights of the First Knight Order, I know about the matter of you climbing in peerage... And, did you meet with

Captain's group?" (Knight)

"Ah, I killed them." (Hifumi)

"Kil..." (Knight)

With an unpleasant feeling, the knight's skin gets goosebumps. He knew, stealing translations from Infinite Novel Translation is wrong!

He tried to put his hand on the hilt of his sword but gave up on it.

"Oh? You don't plan to kill me?" (Hifumi)

As Hifumi says "What? How boring", the knight shook his head.

"I'm well aware of Earl Tohno's skill. I won't even last several seconds. Besides, it was only

because captain announced you as enemy. I had a hunch that it would turn out like this sooner or later…" (Knight)

"Hmmm." (Hifumi)

"Besides, there is something I'd like to request from you." (Knight)

"What is it?" (Hifumi)

Going by the knight's words, there are currently a few dozen soldiers from Orsongrande and several survivors of the Second Knight Order remaining.

"And, because it is a situation where we don't even have a commanding officer, please, we will be saved if you can introduce us to Earl Biron." (Knight)

It's probably a difficult request as Earl Biron' relationship with Stiffels was a bad one too.

"Our knight order is still alright, but most of the soldiers have become exhausted. They want to have a break soon." (Knight)

"I see... Well, it's fine, I guess." (Hifumi)

"Thank you very much." (Knight)

"However, there's something I need your help with." (Hifumi)

"Ha! Anything you desire." (Knight)

Hifumi pointed at the soldiers from Horant.

"Bind those guys hands and move

them to the lord's mansion here." (Hifumi)

"Are you taking them as prisoners?" (Knight)

"Hmm, you might say that's it's a variety of that." (Hifumi)

As Hifumi evaded the core of the matter, the knight didn't poke his nose any further in and separated to go bringing some soldiers.

☺☻☺

"Well, I want to have the privilege to thank you regarding the issue this time." (Biron)

The next morning, Hifumi, who allowed the city of Münster to return quickly to its daily life in a

beat, came to the lord's mansion being called by Biron.

Sabnak and Origa have also come to the office, besides Biron.

"Thanks to you, it finished without significant damage to the city of Münster. You even saved my life. You can expect me to help you to my utmost effort if it is something I can assist you with." (Biron)

Is it alright to promise such a thing? Sabnak was nervous while listening. But as expected, he would feel awkward to to force his way into the discussion between fellow feudal lords.

"If that's the case, I shall accept your offer." (Hifumi)

Hifumi entrusting his body into the sofa and tasting a sip of black tea, turned his line of sight towards the ceiling.

“First I want to receive your help in the experiment of returning the consciousness of the imprisoned soldiers from Horant.” (Hifumi)

“Experiment… is it?” (Biron)

“That’s right. It will become a just cause if I were to take them under my protection after returning their sanity. Besides, it isn’t just a plain benevolent act. If I, treated as hero by the masses, increase the population of Fokalore, it will be easier to earn funds thereafter.” (Hifumi)

As usual Origa is admiring him with something like 「What a magnificent plan」, but Biron and Sabnak are turning pale as Hifumi's manner of speaking is far too frank. This translation is owned by Infinite Novel Translations

The soldiers from Horant are crammed into a hall within the lord's mansion. It's jam packed, but of course there aren't any kinds of complaints from them either. Incidentally, the Second Knight Order and the soldiers from Orsongrande, under the supervision of Biron, are cooperating with the Third Knight Order in the reconstruction work in the city.

"However, is there some method to return them to their previous

state?" (Sabnak)

Towards Sabnak's question Hifumi answers without even changing his expression.

"Who knows. If you adhere to water, there are the ways of having them drink large quantities of water... or soak them in hot water?" (Hifumi)

This is probably torture, almost left Biron't mouth, but he endured it without having his smile falter.

"Well, there are that many of them. It isn't a problem if we waste a few either. It's fine if you consider that at least some will profit by returning to their original state. Leaving that aside, I have another

request.” (Hifumi)

“Let’s hear it.” (Biron)

“Soon the soldiers from Fokalore will arrive here. I intend to have them rest in this city temporarily, but... once they took a rest for about two days, they are scheduled to depart right away.” (Hifumi)

“Isn’t it also fine if they take it a bit slower? We will welcome them warmly.” (Biron)

Biron, with his whole face smiling, talked about the provision of a lodging place and meals, however with a “Let’s not do this” Hifumi shook his head. “Stealing other people’s property is wrong after all!”

“They will invade Horant. Since they are resupplying at this city for that reason, I want you to have the goods arranged.” (Hifumi)

“You will do an invasion in reverse? With only the territorial soldiers?” (Sabnak)

Even as the surprised Sabnak opposes it due to the lacking numbers, Hifumi laughs scornfully.

“First, it will be only me entering. The soldiers will advance in the rear, but to the bitter end they will be the opponents of the dolls. I will kill to my heart’s desire.” (Hifumi)

Although Biron also thought it would be impossible, he ended up considering there might be a

possibility of them accomplishing it. But that might also be one of the scary parts of Hifumi, he judged.

☺☻☺

The abuse of the soldiers from Horant, in the name of salvation, began with pouring water on them, having them drink massive amounts of water. Advancing alongside Hifumi's ideas, they tried changing it to lukewarm water and then to hot water.

The knights of the Second and Third Knight Order are dragged into assisting.

In order to not be attacked by those becoming panicked due to suddenly regaining their consciousness, they

are doing their job while wearing their armour and even going as far having a bamboo sword equipped. Those will be used to beat up thieves!

Then, as Hifumi proposed “Isn’t it fine if they sweat in a steam bath?”, it became hell for the knights as well.

Carrying in pots filled with boiling hot water into the closed up hall, they are rapidly heating up even more.

With the heat and humidity, the hall has completely entered the state of a sauna. The temperature in the other rooms of the mansion has risen as well.

“Hooot~...” (Sabnak)

Even Sabnak, mixed among the other knights, was working on the task.

Watching the hot water boiling with bubbles in the cauldrons and monitoring the fire so that it doesn’t go out, his consciousness has become dizzy due to the excessive heat. Exclusive translation by Infinite Novel Translations!

Already having thrown off the armour, he only wore a plain cloth beneath it.

As he is thinking someone quickly switch places with me, he saw a single soldier from Horant

collapsing.

“Ah~ Once again someone’s limit has... huh?” (Sabnak)

Once he looked properly, he saw the collapsed soldier moving his hands and feet as if struggling slightly. Sabnak rushed over in a hurry and gave him lukewarm water, he put into a leather bag beforehand.

“Oi, get a hold of yourself!” (Sabnak)

“U-Uh... h-here is...” (Soldier)

Apparently his consciousness isn’t clear yet. Although it is with a fragile voice as if groaning, he definitely speaks by himself.

“S-Someone, come here! One person recovered his consciousness!” (Sabnak)

Due to Sabnak’s shout, the other knights also revived and their souls escaped from the rising discomfort of the heat. Noisily gathering, they took out the soldiers from Horant, who regained their consciousness, to another room.

Seeing off the soldiers from Horant being carried out placed on a stretcher, Sabnak sat down on the floor.

“Recovery... it was possible.” (Sabnak)

While looking up at the ceiling, Sabnak smiled bitterly as with this

it had once again worked out according to Hifumi's plan.

☺☻☺

Currently Origa was heading to the room, where Hifumi stayed, within the inn of Münster.

By no means it is for the sake of creeping in without permission. She has been called by Hifumi.

After the audience with Biron she was told by Hifumi to come to the room in the evening without taking anyone along. She put her personal appearance in order until the very last minute.

"This is... is it at last time?" (Origa)

While blushing in embarrassment

and anticipation, she finally arrives in front of the door at a quick pace. With a deep breath she knocks.

“It’s open.” (Hifumi)

As she hears Hifumi’s voice, she feels her heartbeat quickening. Soon the thieves will be judged.

“Excuse me.” (Origa)

When she entered the room, Hifumi was sitting on top of the bed in the simple room. He was about to examine his katana.

The figure of him staring at the katana with serious eyes fascinated Origa for a short while.

“It’s alright to sit somewhere fitting.” (Hifumi)

“Yes. Excuse me.” (Origa)

Without hesitation she sits down next to Hifumi.

Although Hifumi grimaced slightly, he put away the katana with a “Well, it’s fine, I guess?”

“I called you because there is something I want request from you, but...” (Hifumi)

“Yes, please give me any kind of order.” (Origa)

As Origa replied with a rough nasal breathing, showing her resolution to take off her clothes right away, Hifumi drew back a little.

“Calm down. I want you to to do some condemning work for the

sake of my goal." (Hifumi)

"... Yes. Whatever you..." (Origa)

Disregarding the obviously disappointed Origa, Hifumi continues.

"Listen. This is something I entrust to you because I believe in you." (Hifumi)

"Believe..." (Origa)

Hifumi makes sure to not look at Origa, whose eyes now began to sparkle, to the best of his ability.

"After this I will invade Horant. I plan to take all the aforementioned magic tools from there. Although I don't know how many they possess, they have at least used the magic

potion on that number of people. I guess there will also be a number of magic tools that turn people ferocious. I will take them all without leaving anything behind." (Hifumi)

"And then? What will you use those magic tools for?" (Origa)

After having listened well to Origa's question, Hifumi stands up. He draws his katana and beheads a thief trying to steal the translation sneakily

"I thought that there isn't enough seriousness towards battles in this world. Therefore I planned to spread the fighting, but... it's just me killing them one-sidedly. There doesn't seem to be any fellow, that

can kill me, appearing either. Although there might be some people like that by chance, when will they appear in front of me?" (Hifumi)

He drinks a single sip of water from the water jug placed on the writing desk in the room.

"And that's the point. I pondered about a method to have everyone learn by heart about fighting desperately even if I'm not there anymore. And then I asked myself, why don't you attach that magic tool, causing ferocity, from Horant on powerful monsters that are roaming all over the area?" (Hifumi)

"If it's powerful monsters, the

people will have to think about their weapons and tactics to oppose them. It will also cause that adventurers and soldiers will train even more. What wonderful craftiness." (Origa)

"Accordingly, I want you to do a job for me." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, sitting down on the bed once again, looks straight into the eyes of Origa.

"This is an underworld job. By all rights, now that you've accomplished your revenge, there isn't even any necessity to stay at my side, much less to listen to my orders, but..." (Hifumi)

"What are you talking about!? I'm

already together with Hifumi-sama. I intend to perish at the same time as you." (Origa)

"... Well, whatever. After I entered Horant, please take some soldiers. for holding all of the magic tools, and secretly slip out from Horant. Afterwards, I want you to test the magic tools on suitable monsters within both countries, Vichy and Orsongrande." (Hifumi)

"Be focused as much as possible on those monster which are troublesome to deal with for ordinary people. On top of that, it would be good if you lead them to a place close to human habitation", he said with a snicker.

"On that occasion it will also

become training for the territorial soldiers, I suppose. I'm relying on you." (Hifumi)

"Certainly! I will show you that I can live up to your expectation without fail." (Origa)

Origa, who stood up, bows very deeply. Supporting people continuously stealing translations and posting it on their sites will cause translators to stop translating your favourite novels. It is YOU, the reader, who is responsible to cut such thieves short and not the translators!

"Gotcha, I'm looking forward to it." (Hifumi)

Within Hifumi's mind the scene of

soldiers and adventurers frantically fighting against monsters as their opponents was rising to the surface.

Chapter 59: Someday We'll All Be Free

After they regained their consciousness and entered a state of exhaustion where it was possible to tell that they were safe with a single glance, the soldiers from Horant escaped the effect of the magic portion successively.

They numbered 252. When all of them regained their consciousness, all the knights were totally exhausted.

"For the time being they will be put under house arrest with added

monitoring in a reserved inn, but…" (Sabnak)

Sabnak visited Biron's mansion and gave a report. Since he ran around after the first soldier's recovery, his eyes are showing thorough dark circles. This tranlation is property of Infinite Novel Translations. If you read it anywhere else but there you are supporting thieves.

"Thanks for your work. As for their treatment, if we liberate them or arbitrarily enslave them here, they will be afraid." (Biron)

"I'm off to give a report. It would be great if we could finish it as peaceful as possible." (Sabnak)

"It will be alright. At any rate, they

seem to be new candidates to join the fief's population as far as Earl Tohno is concerned about the soldiers from Horant." (Biron)

Biron talked about the possibility of sending them to the aforementioned territory, where they, far from being treated terribly, will be welcomed heartily. With a smiling expression he is looking somewhere far away.

"... Certainly, if it's Hifumi's territory, it appears that the livelihood of the populace has become abundant. Having a high popularity amongst the fief's population, the fame of the Knight of the Thin Sword is apparently continuously rising." (Sabnak)

“Moreover, because of the many staff members and civil officials, things related to the administration are also stable”, Sabnak explained the details of the report that came from the knight order.

“He will increase his population once again. Furthermore, the people coming from other fiefs might increase as well. Regardless of it being legal or illegal. As noble he is ideal in a certain way, isn’t he?” (Biron)

“Ideal... it is?” (Sabnak)

Biron unintentionally burst into laughter due to Sabnak showing a face of not understanding.

“Ahhaha! That doesn’t mean that I

want to go around killing people like that either. I'm envious of him being able to immerse himself in something he likes while enriching the public finances and the fief's population. That's what I mean." (Biron)

"After all, any kind of noble, if they somehow struggle with a tight financial budget, would want to increase their own share. Although they are frantically managing their territory, Hifumi practically leaves almost all of the decision-making to his subordinates. And yet, without him even settling down in his territory, his territory's administration fascinates the people more than that any other fief. On top of that they are operating with their balances in the

black", Biron pointed out.

"I see..." (Sabnak)

If one doesn't only keep an eye on the strange habit of the person himself, one might see him as an excellent feudal lord.

"Well, even if he might be an excellent feudal lord, you can't really say that he is a good noble." (Biron)

"Why?" (Sabnak)

"If he were a good noble, first he wouldn't act in a way of exposing his own country to danger and next he wouldn't kill royalty of his own country." (Biron)

As Biron shook his head with a

bitter smile, Sabnak became aware that he had been splendidly corrupted by Hifumi.

☺☻☺

In Horant's royal castle the king, Suprangel, in a state of entrusting his aged, skinny body to the throne, can't conceal his face burning with anger. This translation is copyrighted by Infinite Novel Translations.

"For the time being, let's listen to your story... ?" (Suprangel)

Kneeling in front of the throne is the royal grandson, Veldone.

With a face full of mortification and an appearance of clenching his teeth, one wouldn't consider this

gruff man as royalty at all.

“... 2 of the covert operatives sent to Orsongrande haven’t returned. Even the 500 soldiers, having finished the adjustment to the magic potion, Elrik, were killed in action or taken prisoner by the enemy...” (Veldone)

The king had already heard the details of the story up to here.

“So, what’s the cause of the failure...?” (Suprangel)

The question, spoken with a hoarse voice, puts a maximum pressure on Veldone.

“That is...” (Veldone)

Swallowing his spit, he continues

his words.

“The military forces overwhelmed the Second Knight Order. All was fine until they decided to turn the First Knight Order into puppets with magic tools using the convert from Vichy. They advanced to the enemy nation’s territory. Once they finally arrived at the city of Münster, the covert operatives were defeated reducing the soldiers to lifeless dolls...” (Veldone)

“Who defeated them?” (Suprangel)

“... A rising noble of Orsongrande called Tohno.” (Veldone)

The king sighed deeply as Veldone squeezed out the name with a feeble voice.

“Isn’t that the noble you said stirred up trouble with Vichy? Wasn’t it you, who talked about this man going to war against Vichy?” (Suprangel)

Veldone can’t return an answer towards the king’s inquiry. A yet unseen hatred is surging within his heart against this noble called Tohno.

“In short, it appears as if you misread the stage… At that time you said Orsongrande would never invade here for the sake of avoiding military operations on two fronts, including Vichy, but… since Vichy apparently already lost, I don’t know what will happen with you estimation. According to the part I’ve heard, the man called Tohno is

referred as Knight of the Thin Sword. Although you can't call him someone having a line up of military exploits…" (Suprangel)

"Never! According to the information, the man called Tohno has arrived at Münster with a small number of people. Furthermore, I have also obtained the news that the First and Second Knight Order have been destroyed! Besides, the possibility of them coming to invade in reverse is…" (Veldone)

The king once again shows a grim face due to Veldone spontaneously standing up and objecting.

"We have obviously been deceived well by the small reinforcement, don't you agree?" (Suprangel)

“Uh… B-But, although being called soldiers, they were gathered from within the population. So they won’t have much of an impact even if they were used and then thrown away…” (Veldone)

“If people infinitely gushed forth from the populace, no statesman of any nation would have any hardships either. If the people decrease, the tax yields of their labour will decrease as well. For you to not grasp this…” (Suprangel)

Veldone holds his tongue due to the rebuking words of the king.

“The talk about handing over the throne to you has been postponed indefinitely. It is currently too early for that. Work on preparing the

defences now.” (Suprangel)

Being told to withdraw, Veldone leaves the audience room in silence.

“He will probably learn something from this. That not anything and everything moves as he wants.” (Suprangel)

As the king’s monologue resounded in the quiet audience room, the chamberlains and civil officials didn’t utter even a single word.

☺☻☺

“Well then, those of you, who are informed about the magic tools of Horant, raise your hand.” (Hifumi)

Since they didn’t even fit in the dining hall of the inn, the former

soldiers from Horant, gathered in a plaza, were baffled by the young man, standing on a hastily made platform, telling them this order without even introducing himself.

“Who are you? Tell us why we are here!” (Soldier)

“Ah, I see. Someone else will explain to you why you are here afterwards since it’s too troublesome. I’m called Hifumi. More or less I’m a noble of Orsongrande. Also, I will kill you, if you talk about unnecessary things from now on.” (Hifumi)

Although the soldiers couldn’t process the forthright killing warning with their brains, for some reason all of them believed him

seeing the seriousness in Hifumi's eyes.

Sabnak, who had climbed the platform together with Hifumi, one way or another spreads a smile in that bloodthirsty atmosphere.

"Well you know, due to the suggested method of him we were able to free you from the effects of the magic potion. It looks like Horant turned you into puppets with the magic potion, used you and killed many of you. Given that we were able to shelter those surviving the battle, we could save you with a method designed by this Hifumi-san." (Sabnak) Support the translators by reading this series on their blog, else they will sooner or later disappear.

The soldiers are looking at each others faces due to Sabnak's explanation.

Although they are not quite believing it, many are apparently thinking that it's a fitting reason explaining their present state.

By the way, Sabnak's explanation is containing many parts he has been forced to say to a certain degree by Hifumi.

"That's how it is. Therefore, hurry up and comply with my order. Those of you, who know something about the magic tools from Horant, raise your hand." (Hifumi)

Bit by bit several hands can be seen. All of them are told to go into the

dining hall of the inn.

“Those of you remaining ask this fellow about the story.” (Hifumi)

Having finished his business, Hifumi ends up quickly heading into the dining hall of the inn. A woman, with an age you would consider to be the one of a girl, went up on the platform in front of the remaining soldiers next.

“I’m Hifumi-sama’s chamberlain, Origa. Let me, together with my master, express our joy for all of you to recover.” (Origa)

It is a polite greeting, but will your master be pleased with that? Everyone inclined their heads to the side.

“Everyone has three choices. First, becoming a free man allowing you to go wherever you want. Second, starting a new life in the territory of Hifumi-sama. Third, returning to Horant.” (Origa)

Origa, discovering a timidly raised hand, gently smiles.

“Do you have any question?” (Origa)

“Umm... I thought we would be treated as enemies, but is it alright to free us, not to mention even allowing us to return to our country?” (Soldier)

“Of course, it is. However...” (Origa)

After clearing her throat with an ahem, Origa speaks.

“Naturally we won’t guarantee you anything concerning your life afterwards even if you are released. Although we haven’t laid our hands on the things you wore, we won’t give you anything like money to cover the costs of preparations and such. And in the case you picked the choice of returning to Horant,...” (Origa)

Her lovely smiling facial expression collapsed in an instant.

“Hii...” (Soldier) All credits for this translation belong to Infinite Novel Translations.

Someone raised a frightened shriek.

“Since you will become our enemy, I can’t guarantee how many of you

will survive after crossing the border. Horant will disappear within a few days by Hifumi-sama's hands. During that period people, who are basically a nuisance, will be massacred. Since everyone, who returned there, will likely once again receive the drug and come back to the battlefield, they will immediately be turned into corpses then and there." (Origa)

"If you have the resolve for that, please go ahead and return home", Origa says.

Everyone has their breath taken away. Even Sabnak, who listened next to her, is stiffening.

"W-Well, if it's Hifumi... -sama's territory, how will we be treated

there? Will we be made into slaves after all?" (Soldier)

While being glared at for almost forgetting to attach -sama, the young soldier somehow managed to finish his question. Origa showed a smile. If the previous intensity didn't exist, they might even have regarded her as very charming.

"Nothing like that will happen. Once you properly registered as citizen, you will be referred to a workplace that fits you as much as possible. It's no problem for you to use the lodging house of the government administration for a while. If you have the aspiration, we will even hire you as soldiers and staff members." (Origa)

In one go it began to get noisy due to that proposal.

A far too nice treatment, isn't it a trap?

And However, there is no other choice.

(Well, that's how it will turn out, right?) (Sabnak)

Sabnak looked at their state harbouring sympathy, but there were mostly people, who were apparently forcefully enlisted. Don't they have family? It seems they are people with the same circumstances being recruited at the same time.

Since they mostly made use of close-by soldiers for their human

experiments, they probably chose people in a position of “There won’t be any complaints” on purpose, Sabnak judged.

In the end all of them decided to move to Fokalore after staying in Münster for a short while. It was arranged that they would accompany the Fokalore territorial soldiers once they returned.

“What will happen if the territorial soldiers from Fokalore don’t return from Horant?” (Soldier)

Someone asked that question. Origa glared at him with a degree of pressure causing the soldier’s body to petrify. For around 3 hours they had to listen to a speech about Hifumi’s magnificence and what

unrivalled strength he is boasting of. They got stuck receiving another kind of mind-control.

After that, all of the former soldiers from Horant became submissive towards Origa.

☺☻☺

“... Understood. It’s fine for you guys to join the other guys now. Ask someone suitable to tell you the story.” (Hifumi)

At the time Origa’s public preaching took place on the plaza, Hifumi finished listening to the explanation about the magic tools from the soldiers of Horant in the dining hall.

In the capital city of Horant,

Adolamelk, the institutions related to magic research are concentrated in the vicinity of the castle. Excellent magicians are gathering there. It seems that it has turned into an organisation of collecting all of their results, in their pursuit in military arts and research, at the royal castle.

As consequence, the commercialized products, after passing a certain time, are published and granted to Horant's merchants and a part of Vichy's merchants by the royal castle. It has taken a shape of constantly preserving the superiority of the royal castle in magic technology.

"In other words, it's best if I ignore the others and head to the capital."

(Hifumi)

“It’s fine, if it isn’t too problematic”, Hifumi laughs.

“There might be difficulties because soldiers, using magic, are gathered there, but, well, I will somehow deal with it, I guess. Let’s have the nation disappear by getting rid of the king while I’m at it. I want to see whether it would develop into a fight between local warlords in case the system of the central government ended up collapsing.” (Hifumi)

While complaining dissatisfied by himself that Vichy didn’t succumb to the degree of chaos he planned, Hifumi ordered a meal from the inn’s employee. Read this on

Infinite Novels Translations' blog instead of on the site of a thief

This inn isn't the one Hifumi is staying at, but since the middle-aged female employee was given detailed and precise instructions about what kind of person Hifumi is and how to deal with him by the Third Knight Order, she quickly lays out Hifumi's order.

First she served a stew dish similar to pot-au-feu containing root crops all over which apparently is a speciality of this city.

"I see, I see. It's slightly bland but the taste of the vegetables is deep." (Hifumi)

Looking at his state of stuffing the

vegetables into his mouth with a satisfied and friendly smile, the employee was baffled by this as she couldn't see him as such a scary person.

Her impression doesn't match with the bloody story she was told in a way of bad-mouthing him not long ago.

"Did I interrupt you?" (Knight)

"I looked for you", it was a knight affiliated with the Third Knight Order whose voice reached Hifumi. It was the man who called out to Hifumi at the time the group of soldiers from Horant came to a standstill. Currently he was helping out at the Third Knight Order. His name was Vaiya.

“Ah, it’s you, eh?” (Hifumi)

“The troops of Earl-sama have arrived. Just, that… the person calling herself military director…” (Vaiya)

Somehow it seems he is hesitating whether he should say that he believes Alyssa to be too young.

“That person, despite appearance, is reasonably powerful since she has been forged under my guidance. Hmm, well I guess her appearance is a bit odd though.” (Hifumi)

“Then…” (Vaiya)

“Ah, I have certainly entrusted Alyssa with the territorial army. That’s right, lead the soldiers to a suitable place where they can rest

and bring Alyssa here." (Hifumi)

"Understood." (Vaiya)

Having his doubts cleared up, Vaiya returned an invigorated reply.

"Sorry for using you although you aren't even my subordinate." (Hifumi)

"Please don't mind it. Thanks to you my head is still connected to the neck. I will do my utmost to return this favour." (Vaiya)

Vaiya leaves in order to call Alyssa.

Hifumi ordered another serving of stew for Alyssa and other additional dishes for himself.

"Now then, at last it looks like the

preparations have been put in order.” (Hifumi)

With the goal of invading the country of Horant, Hifumi’s mood was uplifted.

Chapter 60: Second Solution

The proclamation of independence from Vichy has changed the metropolis, Waterpearson (TN: >> Watapiyulusan <<), from a city to a nation. The mansion of Minosol, who turned from being the city's representative into having the title of head of a state, is located there.

To the very end the mansion is a private residence. The government's office building is in its immediate neighbourhood. Every day he takes his breakfast at home and has a habit of commuting to work by carriage albeit the short distance. From the time he became

the city's representative, it never even once happened for him to be late, even after becoming the head of a state, but just today he appeared from the entrance to his home being several minutes overdue.

The coachman, who waited anxiously, showed a smile for an instant when the figure of his employer at last made an appearance. But, understanding with a glance, he goes beyond worry and is clearly panicking due the weakened countenance of his employer."A-Are you alright? Today you should rest..." (Coachman)

"Ah, I don't have such time... I haven't taken responsibility for my choice..." (Minosol)

Minosol, who boarded the carriage finally after being supported by a maid, seemed to have fainted due to the reports he looked over right after he arrived at the government's office building.

Even the secretary, who brought in the report, has a pale face.

"It's a detailed explanation..." (Minosol)

"Yes. With no more than 3 cities and their affiliated villages of the former Vichy participating in our Pearson faction, it seems half of the remaining cities have sworn allegiance to Fokalore and the others have formed an alliance continuing Vichy's system of government." (Secretary)

“What has happened with the central committee?” (Minosol)

“Only one has withdrawn for the sake of swearing allegiance to Fokalore. The remaining 3 are preserving the central government, but because they give too much priority to the defence of their own cities, they can’t secure any backing from the other city representatives. If it goes on like this, it might also be possible that the committee will fall apart.” (Secretary)

“I see...” (Minosol)

If war alone is the only exchange of lives, it might be not necessary for Vichy to break in pieces this far, Minosol judges.

Though I guess that's a strange thing to say for me, who dropped out first. But, if it's mere war, you can mutually shave off the war potential of each other to some extent and at some point in time come to an agreement. Even if the defeated side has a painful experience in its finances and workers, it will probably end for them with just desperately reorganizing for a few years.

However, this time it was different.

Minosol considers the dreadfulness of the man called Hifumi to be a different aspect than his war potential.

Luring Vichy's allied forces into Orsongrande's territory, he severely

defeated and cut down their numbers. After that battle, the shaved off territories came under a just rule due to Hifumi's leadership, clearly without exploiting them. The majority of the population says that it has rather become easier to live. If they prove their abilities, I heard that they can even be employed as town mayors and civil officials and even city representatives can be dismissed uneventfully.

With this, for what reason should the inhabitants on Vichy's side follow the leadership of the central committee? I guess it's even inevitable that they harbour such doubts. In reality, many cities have changed sides to Fokalore because of that. Even among the cities

remaining on Vichy's side, there aren't few places where the masses are revolting due to the representative showing an intention to remain.

"To sum it up, we have been defeated in battle as well as politics. Sooner or later, the name Vichy might disappear..." (Minosol)

The secretary lifted his head due to the muttering of just a few words, but Minosol waved his hand to not mind it.

Currently they have to think about how to protect this country.

"Please send a messenger to Fokalore once again. Just having raised its first cry, I want them to

save this frail, infant country from danger." (Minosol)

"As you wish." (Secretary)

The geographical isolation can't be helped, but on the other hand, if we stay in Vichy and resist to the bitter end, it's not unlikely that we will be completely destroyed this time for sure.

Sticking out until the end now, Minosol chose to conduct themselves as friendly nation from the beginning to the end.

☺☻☺

Because of the commanding officer of the Third Knight Order's group, that stayed behind at the royal castle of Orsongrande, playing a

central part, the removal of the prince's faction made progress. All of the knights staying within the castle have been substituted by knights affiliated with the Third Knight Order. Even within the political sphere, the influence of the nobles belonging to the prince faction has obviously fallen.

Lotomago is the name of the Third Knight Order's commanding officer. He was a man who was promoted in recognition of his accomplishments, not for distinguished military service but for his intelligence in the information warfare. He, who was born as third son of a not very prospering Viscount household, has an unattractive appearance giving of a feeling of constantly being

sleepy with heavy eyelids. In any case, his features don't stand out. Basically he is a type of character that doesn't make an appearance on a flashy stage.

Currently he has come to the actual site, which is rare for him, to give directions, notwithstanding that it almost never happened that he left his office.

That Lotomago was now maintaining a watch over the Prime Minister Adol, even more so than over Hifumi and the prince faction.

The movements of the prince faction are largely influenced by Prime Minister Adol as well. Despite bringing many nobles together, he has had a high

evaluation for his reliable work befitting his title until now. He is playing a big part in winning over the nobles with rational persuasion.

There is a rumour that this prime minister is secluding himself within the castle's document room every night recently. Using a subordinate, Lotomago grasped it to the point of knowing that it is a fact.

Though he didn't yet know for what reason he is dong this...

"... Really, there is such magic, isn't that right?" (Adol)

Prime Minister Adol grumbled while rummaging through documents related to magic, that are being kept in the form of thin,

engraved lithographs, in the dim reference room.

“Yes, of course. There is the summoning magic that Princess-sama successfully used. Even sending home is possible. There should be past records of that.”

“What’s so funny?” A voice filled with laughter can be heard from the back of Adol.

“... By no means I believed that the day, I would follow the talk of an evil spirit, would ever come.” (Adol)

“An evil spirit has such an evil reputation, riight~ ?” (Evil Spirit)

In front of Adol, who turned around, only a dark, pale face, shrouded in mist, is floating. That

face, laughing with a clinging broad grin, was halfway wrapped in darkness.

“I told you that I’m a death god.” (Shinigami)

Adol snorted in displeasure due to the death god’s way of talking.

“It’s presumptuous for an evil spirit to call itself something like a god. Leaving that aside, help me search as well, you bastard. If we continue at this rate, there is no knowing when we will find it even if there was a record.” (Adol)

“I’m sorry to say, I still can’t restore anything but the face. Haven’t I told you at the beginning? Since I was slain by that katana of Hifumi-san,

a part of my power is clinging to Hifumi-san and he wears it. At least I recovered my strength up to this point." (Shinigami)

"Good grief", it shook the unnaturally frowning face.

"Doesn't your restoration take rather much time for something calling itself god?" (Adol)

"That katana is dangerous. How to tell you? It's blessed with the divine protection of a War God, okaay~ ? As expected, even I was on the verge of extinction. Besides..." (Shinigami)

Completely changing from a smiling face, it changed its tone as if loosing it's nerve and pouting.

“Since the person, who I kindly offered my darkness magic, isn’t using its power, the source of my power is scarce, you knoow~ ? With him believing that nothing but the darkness storage is useful, the force of my existence won’t rise no matter how much time passes in the current state.” (Shinigami)

“It’s a disturbing situation”, the death god complained.

“Force of existence, huh… ?” (Adol)

“Yea, we gods realise our form by relying on the faith of the people and thus obtain the power to manifestate in the world. Therefore, if he uses the power bestowed by me, the same power will be given to me as well.” (Shinigami)

“If that’s the case, wouldn’t it be quite convenient for you, if Hifumi-dono continued to fight in this world?” (Adol)

Due to Adol’s question, the death god’s tongue makes a sound of 「Tsk tsk」. If there was an index finger, it would probably swing it sideways.

“Even though I may appear this way, I’m a major god in my original world. Since the gods and the rising of their believers are weak here, my original world is far more comfortable. Hence it is necessary to go with someone if they are sent back with return magic.” (Shinigami)

“Our interests match”, despite the

death god saying this, Adol has a grim face while consenting.

“Well then, do your best at searching. Let’s bestow hope upon Princess-sama. Because the program of despair has already been decided.” (Shinigami)

The pretext of despair called the notification of Prince Ayperos’ death was stopped by the prime minister.

☺☻☺

Fokalore’s territorial forces, arriving at Münster, were split into two groups after having rested for one night.

A special task force with the goal of taking back the magic tools led by

Origa and the main force that invades Horant from the front.

It has been decided that Hifumi will enter first and head toward the royal castle of Horant by himself after discovering the magic tools and leading the special task force together with Origa there. The schedule for the main force is to invade the cleared out Horant from the front with a delay of 1 day.

Hifumi and Origa, who led 10 chosen soldiers each, carefreely departed toward the national border of Horant with a rail car remodelled into a wagon.

The clear, blue sky is spreading endlessly.

“Hifumi-sama, we were blessed with good weather.” (Origa)

“Ah, that’s right.” (Hifumi)

While basking in the warm sunlight, Hifumi, who sat down with a flump on the wagon, dozes off while returning a suitable answer.

The surface of the wagon has a size to the degree of a K-car. The others of Hifumi’s group are sympathizing with the two soldiers on driving duty. The other wagons are also manned by two soldiers each. The two wagons are basically vacant except for the weapons and food. Their purpose is to be loaded with magic tools.

The wagons, which aren't heavy yet as there is only little baggage, make clattering sounds while nimbly advancing on the highway.

They have already passed through the village close to the border too. It is estimated that they will arrive at the border fortress soon.

"Once we get close to the border, lower the speed. I will get off to clear the path." (Hifumi)

"Ha! By your command!" (Soldier)

The soldier, who somehow managed to catch Hifumi voice that was swallowed by the wind, answered in a loud voice.

Before long, there are dozens of soldiers standing close to

Orsongrande's side's fortress that became visible in front of them. The once completely defeated border patrol has already been changed. A part of the soldiers, that have been dispatched as substitutes for the defence, were commanded by the Second Knight Order temporarily.

On the other side of the fortress there are Horant's guards, I guess. A tingling air is adrift, but I can also see this with my far-sightedness.

Hifumi, who jumped off the moving wagon, advances towards the position of the two soldiers standing at the border.

"Thanks for your work. Let me pass for a minute. Ah, the lot in the rear

as well.” (Hifumi)

“Ah, yes. Please go ahead.” (Guard)

The soldier, who apparently knew Hifumi’s face, opened the path with a nervous face.

“It’s fine if you aren’t this tense. I will dispose of the guys over there right away.” (Hifumi)

He smiled while drawing his katana.

When he looks at the end of the pathway of the fortress, he can see 3 soldiers from Horant preparing their swords.

“Ohh, as expected, the dolls won’t be deployed as border security, huh?” (Hifumi)

While murmuring without speaking to anyone specific, he lowers the katana in his right hand. As he swings it with a slow swaying, the soldier's from Horant also showed an increasingly tense face due to Hifumi crossing the border.

"I'm Hifumi, an Earl of Orsongrande. I have some business or something like that with your king. Since I will force my way through, it's fine to be a hindrance if you want to die." (Hifumi)

Hifumi is slowly stepping forward as if giving them the time to choose. The soldiers of Horant were bewildered, but none of them tried to run away.

"Well done." (Hifumi)

The second the distance to his opponents decreased to 5 meters, Hifumi broke into a run as if bursting open. The heads of the three soldiers were cleaved off in a flash. Without touching their bones at all, he cleanly severed only the soft flesh of the throat.

Waiting for Hifumi, who calmly went out from within the fountain of blood he had created, on Horant's side, were the figures of roughly around 50 soldiers from Horant.

"Aye, thanks for the trouble to come meet me. Besides, it's nice that you aren't puppets. Now, decide. Run away or die, it's one of those two." (Hifumi)

Once the person in charge on site, thought to be a soldier of around 50 years, raises a roar due to Hifumi's provocation, the soldiers came rushing all at once without order, ranks or plan.

"That's a bad move, you know~ ?" (Hifumi)

"It's better for me if enemies and allies are jumbled together. If you rush in disorder because there is only one enemy, you will probably hinder your allies", Hifumi smiled bitterly. But he seems to be pleased with their will-power to plunge into it without hesitation though they are soldiers on the verge of death He is in a good mood.

Lowering his body, he slips in

between the soldiers, deviating from the centre where the enemies are concentrated.

With only this much the majority of the soldiers ended up losing sight of him.

Hifumi, easily slipping through the enemy group, approached the man in charge and soundlessly beheaded him.

At the time the soldier at the edge of the group turned his head around being doubtful as the voice of his superior couldn't be heard anymore, the corpse of his superior, having no head, fell to the ground. In front of him was the figure of the enemy who shouldn't be there.

“Uhii...” (Soldier)

Even as he screamed, Hifumi’s left hand grabbed his face, pulled it down as if tearing it off and stabbed him to death.

In that manner he killed the soldiers from the back of the enemy group by cutting them up roughly. When all of them noticed and inquired into the abnormality of the situation, around 10 had died by Hifumi’s hands and further 5 were accidentally killed by their own colleagues.

Although they once again surrounded Hifumi, he sheathed the katana and clapped his hands towards the soldiers, who now kept their distance without closing in.

“Yo yo! It was quite a sweltering fighting style. So, how do you feel about killing your friends after going crazy earlier? For the fellows in the centre of your group there were probably some who felt the feedback of their own weapons, right?” (Hifumi)

Some of them reflexively cast down their eyes due to Hifumi’s fully ridiculing words.

“Good, in that case…” (Hifumi)

Hifumi took out a simple metal staff from within his darkness storage.

“Shall we continue then?” (Hifumi)

In fact it is only the staff part of the chigiriki he took out. It ended up

broken when he hit a tree during his own practise. Thus he decided to use it as staff.

Among the soldiers, who fixed their stance in panic, the soldier, who reacted the slowest, became the first victim.

The staff knocked into his temporal region with the force of Hifumi rotating it overhead. Including the simple helmet, his skull was smashed and the enemy died instantly.

Pulling back the swung staff, he uses the force of withdrawing it to attack a different soldier and kills him.

“Look, if you don’t counter-attack

quickly, you will only be killed one-sidedly." (Hifumi)

Circling around to the back of a soldier, Hifumi locks his neck with the staff and, standing back to back, he throws him over his shoulders.

The soldier, who was lifted up in a state of having his throat crushed, broke his neck and died.

Just using a stick without even a blade, he kills his opponents one after the other while even being only one person. It is already making the surviving soldiers getting ready to flee.

"Uu..." (Soldier)

However, escaping from the battlefield will definitely lead to the

death penalty in Horant.

Running away or not, the result is the same. Dying now or dying after being caught and tortured, that's the only difference.

There were people who were viewing from a distance as the soldiers from Horant were killed one by one like that.

It was Origa and the Fokalore territorial soldiers who had crossed the border following Hifumi.

"... Is it alright to not help him?" (Soldier)

Due to the situation of being outnumbered albeit not having a single injury, a single soldier ended up unintentionally expressing this,

but regretted it right away.

Origa's eyes went below freezing point in an instant as they turned towards the soldier.

"Do you want to interrupt Hifumi-sama's amusement? And, do you want me to receive a scolding once again because I couldn't hold you back from that?" (Origa)

"N-No... I'm very sorry..." (Soldier)

"Shut up and watch. And, if you are able, learn Hifumi-sama's techniques. That gentleman wishes for there to be more fighters among the inhabitants of this world. Not to fight together as allies, but to fight as opponents of that gentleman." (Origa)

All of the Fokalore territorial soldiers being there are people who saw Hifumi's battle in Rhone. As there is currently an one-sided massacre unfolding in front of their eyes, it's probably impossible to fight that as opponent, everyone judged.

Ceasing to watch such soldiers, Origa ecstatically turned her gaze ahead where Hifumi was joyfully wielding his staff and striking his enemies dead.

Chapter 61: I Shot The Sheriff

After the guard unit on Horant's side of the national border had been completely destroyed, the disposal of the corpses, which were scattered all over, was entrusted to the border guards of Orsongrande.

The person responsible for the guards hesitated to cross the border without permission.

"It's alright since I'm giving you permission. Or rather, this is already territory of Orsongrande." (Hifumi)

Making him yield with a few words

and furthermore placing the condition that it was fine to do as they like with the goods in the enemy's lodging house and the personal properties of the corpses, the soldiers surged into Horant's side of the border striving to be first.

"... Good grief." (Hifumi)

Murmuring how difficult it is to handle them, Hifumi goes ahead.

Without haste and on the other hand without being slow either, Hifumi advances on the wagons they took along.

The weather is clear as usual, but there are almost no figures of merchants and travellers coming

and going on the highway. Occasionally seeing farmers working on the fields is something he can only see in a distant place.

“There’s few people.” (Hifumi)

“I heard a story that they aren’t able to freely move too much within the country because of the previous adventurers originating from Horant. Besides, the population is quite concentrated on the capital.” (Origa)

Moreover, there seems to be quite a difference in treatment with the exception of magicians.

They have adopted an extreme doctrine of magic supremacy. If you develop new spells or magic tools,

depending on the opinion of royalty, you will be appointed to a responsible post.

“Huuumph.” (Hifumi)

Although they are maintaining the highway quite a bit, compared to Orsongrande and Vichy, there are many points, with weeds and stones, that are in a state of not being repaired.

Proceeding on the highway until evening, they set up camp at a suitable spot. But no one happened to pass by until morning.

They advanced once again along the highway after having taken a carefree and ample breakfast. Just before noon they could see a city.

“It’s a city.” (Soldier)

“What will you do?” (Origa)

“Let’s buy food. It’s alright to kill the enemy soldiers if they come interfering.” (Hifumi)

“Roger.” (Origa)

The soldiers affix their swords on their hips while exchanging glances with faces of I wonder, if it’s really fine.

While lowering the speed of the wagons, they approached the city’s entrance with its gatekeepers standing guard.

☺☻☺

The information of Hifumi’s

invasion hasn't yet reached the royal castle of Horant.

That person in charge of border security should likely dispatch someone to contact them originally, but he should have done that before getting killed. Therefore no one knew about the situation at the national border.

The king expected Hifumi's group and Orsongrande's military forces to invade the frontier district, however the royal grandson, Veldore, hadn't predicted that. For that reason, the order insisting on him preparing the defences carried the meaning of "Behave yourself without doing anything unnecessary" for him.

“Shit! About now I should be preparing the coronation, but... those savages from Orsongrande! Besides...” (Veldore)

There wasn’t any need to put it into words, but his dissatisfaction with the king welled up from within his stomach up to his throat.

During the long reign, my father, being the prince, died and my uncles, who tried to give up on the succession as well, are finishing their whole lives as high executives of the national politics. They never put it into words, but they were discontent with father. A sense of fatigue is seeping through the castle due to the too long time of no changes in the staff within the royal castle.

Without even outstanding progress in magic engineering for the last 10 years here, the king didn't take any special measures either.

Day by day his feeling that he would be more successful than the king is rising.

Veldore, who returned to his office and personal laboratory, sat down in his chair and made a sound as he gulped down the sake he poured into his cup from a porcelain jar.

A man came entering then after having knocked.

With an age of about 30 years, he has a moustache, which is carefully put in order and wears a seemingly pompous tail coat.

“Veldore-sama.” (Yugu)

“... Yugu, huh?” (Veldore)

The man called Yugu poured sake into Veldore’s cup and prepared his own cup as well. Without even a single word of permission, Yugu does this as if it was the most natural thing in the world. Veldore doesn’t particularly say anything to that either. During the continuous years of associating with each other it had partly become a habit.

“Did something happen with the king, I wonder?” (Yugu)

“It’s of no concern... no, it’s simply my failure. Half of the soldiers, who used the new type of magic tool, were lost. The remaining were

captured by Orsongrande.” (Veldore)

“My goodness...” (Yugu)

Yugu, tasting a sip of sake, laughed with a complacent smile due to its aroma.

“It’s an excellent sake. As expected of the royal grandson. No, it should be, as expected of the next king.” (Yugu)

“Don’t make fun of me. Besides, this failure also means the postponement of the crown.” (Veldore)

With a deep sigh he stares at the sake cup.

As result of his feelings of

frustration, he doesn't even sense the taste of what he's drinking.

"Isn't there a method to take the throne right away?" (Yugu)

"What foolish thing are you saying... Never! That's too much of a prank even as joke!" (Veldore)

Yugu, who had Veldore's glare pointed at him, shrugged his shoulders without being perturbed.

"It's no joke or such. There aren't few people who are desiring for you to sit on the throne as soon as possible. It's fine because it's the majority of those working in the castle. If you felt like it, I could gather as many cooperators as you wish." (Yugu)

“But…” (Veldore)

“Don’t say such weak things. What will you do if you can’t surpass an ordeal of such level in order to ascent to the rank of emperor.” (Yugu)

Veldore was gradually drawn in by Yugu’s words of slow and simplified persuasion.

Being reminded of the character of his grandfather who is the king, the voice of Yugu resounds even more in the ears of Veldore, who groaned being at his wit’s end.

“Isn’t it a method to prove your competency once again if you steal the crown with force?” (Yugo)

The discontent with the king, which

was all jumbled together just a moment ago, is once again dominating Veldore's mind.

"... What's the method?" (Veldore)

Yugu laughed with a 「Magnificent resolution」 due to the question of Veldore, who raised his face.

☺◕☺

"Yeees! Liiiine up in order!"

The former soldiers of Horant, who were once again gathered in the plaza of Münster, were given a good meal without suffering abuse. After having taken a rest at ease, all of them became very lively.

Their mentality is still quite insecure, but even so they are

encouraging each other by ascertaining their hopes of survival.

And now, in front of them is an even younger looking girl than the one, who gave them a preaching the other day, standing.

“I’m the military director of the Fokalore territorial army, Alyssa! Best regards!” (Alyssa)

“M-Military director... ?” (Soldier)

As someone let his feelings of disbelief show, the soldiers from Fokalore, lined up on both sides from Alyssa, glared at him.

“Hey! Your Excellency, the director, is talking!” (Soldier)

“I-I’m sorry.”

“Well then, I will explain what you wil-shall do from now on!” (Alyssa)

“At last the director is using polite language!”

“Director, go for it!”

Alyssa, confirming from time to time with a glance the memo in her hand while saying “Ummm,” gets earnestly cheered on by the soldiers in her neighbourhood.

The watching side can’t catch up with their comprehension.

“I will have all of you go to Fokalore together with my troops. Because Hifumi-san has given his approval, we will prepare a place in the city where everyone can stay at. You can be relieved since even work will be

mediated for you if you have an aspiration. Since I will command the troops going to Horant, I won't be able to go with you, but it's okay because I will properly contact the officials from Fokalore." (Alyssa)

"It's regrettable that we can go together with director!"

"Well, it's only natural for newcomers!"

The soldiers from Horant don't know how they should react due to the high tension of the soldiers from Fokalore, but at any rate, they have barely understood that they will apparently head to Fokalore.

The tension of the Fokalore territorial soldiers seems to be the

usual. Alyssa eagerly explained the contents of her memo.

Once they enter Fokalore, their name and age will be registered. They will enter an inn temporarily. After that, those people with aspirations will be educated and introduced to a workplace.

The soldiers from Horant were baffled by the unfamiliar word they heard, education, but seeing Alyssa's appearance, they are consulting among each other that it probably won't be such bad treatment.

"If there are people who want to enter the army of Fokalore, apply to one of the civil officials once you arrived at the city. Our Fokalore

territorial army will welcome any of you!" (Alyssa)

A cheer from the territorial soldiers resounds due to Alyssa finishing her explanation laughing with a smile.

"Thank you for your effort, director!"

"Beverage has been prepared!"

"You are probably worn out. Please get on my back!"

Alyssa, who gets down from the platform, is swarmed. Seeing several of the territorial soldiers expressing their appreciation and saying things they don't quite understand, Horant's soldiers decided to give only the entering of

the territorial army a miss.

“... What’s this?” (Sabnak)

Sabnak, who saw the commotion by accident, mumbled while looking at the difference in enthusiasm between the two groups from far away.

☺◕☺

“Wait, the strange vehicle over there... what’s this? What kind of business do you have with this city?” (Guard)

Seeing the approaching group of Hifumi, the two soldiers from Horant, seemingly the gatekeepers, grabbed their slender spears and asked for their identity.

“This is a vehicle I built. It has no particular name. We are only stopping by to purchase food on our way to the capital.” (Hifumi)

Without stopping, Hifumi answers their question while trying to enter the city quickly. The guards stopped them by projecting out their spears in a hurry.

“Wa-Wait! We haven’t yet finished our questioning!” (Guard)

“Stop! Show us an permission for you to travel within the country and something proving your social status!” (Guard)

“Travel permit? There’s still something like that in this country?”`(Hifumi)

“It seems so. The travelling within the country is probably being restricted.” (Origa)

The two are carefreely chatting in the back guessing whether to pity the soldiers or whether confirming the coming and going is difficult. This mood of having no tension at all is an unusual occurence in this country.

“Don’t you have a permit? Certainly you are not deserting, are you!?” (Guard)

Hifumi showed a coin, he took out from his pocket, due to the guards approaching even further with their spears.

“Do you know what this is?”

(Hifumi)

Even as he asks, the guards don't reply while only frowning.

"You don't seem to know. Is it only circulating within my country?" (Hifumi)

"Well, then I will teach you," Hifumi gathers their attention by rotating the coin with a flip.

"It's something signifying my rank as noble of Orsongrande. I'm an Earl of your enemy's nation called Hifumi. That's me." (Hifumi)

The guards, taken aback for an instant, seem to finally recognize the word called Orsongrande. One of them ran into the city in a hurry.

“Calling for reinforcements, huh?” (Hifumi)

What meaning did he pick up from Hifumi’s question? The remaining guard laughed scornfully.

“It’s too late to even get cold feet now. How come you are calling yourself something like a noble of an enemy nation, even if it is a fraud? You will repent about this plenty in the jail.” (Guard)

“Aren’t you misunderstanding something? If you are calling for reinforcements, call many of them. It would be boring if it ended right way.” (Hifumi)

The guard, who was completely taken for a fool, approached with

his spearhead in front of Hifumi's eyes.

"Shut up your lukewarm prattling! Even if you irresponsibly bluff..." (Guard)

Suddenly Hifumi brings his face close without hesitation.

When it seemed as if the spearhead is touching his left eye, the guard withdrew the spear reflexively.

"You pulled back the spear." (Hifumi)

"U..." (Guard)

"Bluffing or whatever, if you decide to do something, don't stop in the middle of it." (Hifumi)

At the time the guard turned his sight away due to Hifumi's gaze being fixed on him straightforwardly, around 10 soldiers from Horant could be seen running over here.

"T-They came! With this..." (Guard)

In the moment he was relieved due to the arrival of the reinforcements, a katana protruded from within the guard's chest.

"If you avert your sight from the enemy in front, at least avoid this without looking." (Hifumi)

The guard complained with his eyes "What an unbelievable thing did you do" and then died as it is.

"Wh... bastard!" (Guard)

The complexion of the soldiers, who saw their companion getting killed in front of their eyes, changes and they come rushing.

Storing away the katana while waiting for their arrival, he substitutes it with the kusarigama.

“Origa and you lot, don’t make a move.” (Hifumi)

“As you wish.” (Origa)

Hifumi, who looked at Origa’s group standing silently at a distance, suddenly begins to rotate the counterweights.

“Well then, it seems that magicians are mixed in this time.” (Hifumi)

In the rear of the group, the figures

of three magicians, who seem to be late or have inferior stamina, in plain robes are approaching entering Hifumi's sight.

As if being too much of a wait, Hifumi steps into the city.

One of the counterweights smashed the face of a man, who was the vanguard. Receiving damage up until his cervical vertebrae due to the impact, the man was forced into a somersault while scattering his teeth.

The second counterweight twines itself around the neck of another man and Hifumi draws his prey to his place.

Hifumi, who smiled at the enemy

who came close, deeply cut the artery of the thigh with the sickle.

With the place turning into a sea of blood just like that, the residents, who are close-by, realize the strangeness of the situation and run away while screaming.

Hifumi, noticing some presence come flying at the place, where he decided to aim at the third person, quickly moved a part of his body aside.

A rock of a size of around an armful passed by and fell in front of Origa's group standing in the back.

"Hifumi-sama! There is someone using earth magic! Please be careful!" (Origa)

“Rather than earth magic, it is rock magic.” (Hifumi)

Somehow it seems the three magicians use the same attribute. Another two rocks come flying.

Did they believe in their victory? If you look at the magicians, their mouths, which peek out from under the hood, are smiling.

“Well, there “is” such a way of doing things as well, I think?” (Hifumi)

With these words the darkness storage expands in front of his eyes.

The rocks are soundlessly and completely swallowed by the dark, expanded storage and then it closed itself as if there wasn’t anything to

begin with.

“Hmm. The user-friendliness is great.” (Hifumi)

The enemy magicians are dumbfounded due to Hifumi’s lone consent.

The soldiers stopped their feet as Hifumi cast magic without as much as a wand or dagger.

“Oi oi, we aren’t done yet!” (Hifumi)

As the launched counterweight howls, it once again delivers a hard blow to the temporal region of a soldier killing him in the process.

Another soldier was beheaded by the sickle before he could return to the soldiers.

“T-emporary retreat! Stay in order!”

The panicking soldiers are falling back temporarily and put the file and ranks of the group in order.

Hifumi yawns while waiting for the soldiers to line up slowly.

“Are you done? It’s fine if you use your head in combat, but practise moving slightly faster. If it were the soldiers from my place, they would be able to change formations without taking several seconds.” (Hifumi)

Fokalore’s territorial soldiers are proudly nodding due to Hifumi’s words.

“Get him!”

Once someone among the soldiers shouted that, all of them came dashing simultaneously. And once again three rocks came flying from the rear.

As Hifumi stored away the kusarigama and became unarmed, he smoothly passed through his opponents, who were stabbing their spears and swords at him side-by-side as if weaving through their gaps.

Like that, he ends up standing in front of the soldier at the end of the line.

“Eh?” (Soldier)

The soldier wasn’t able to comprehend why the enemy was

standing in front of him. Hifumi grabbed him under the arms on both sides as if holding a child.

The back of the head of the soldier, who was lifted upwards with the momentum of running, was hit by the rocks that came flying.

He gave off an unpleasant sound of crushing tinged with dampness.

Hifumi, throwing away the corpse, rushes over to the magicians and turns them into rust on his katana successively.

“I think it would be better if you thought a bit more about how to use your magic.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi annihilated the magicians, but once he turned his look towards

the surviving soldiers, they already hadn't a single speck of fighting spirit left.

However, without Hifumi intending to let a single one of them live, the result followed in accordance to that.

Chapter 62: Eat It

“Magnificent results” (Caim)

As he listened to Caim, who was a person who rarely smiled, Doelgar was surprised while being on duty in the study hall.

“Hee, ojou-san is this excellent?” (Doelgar)

“That’s right. Bowing her head to Brokra, she had him teach her. A great difference to you who just somehow passed.” (Caim)

“Shut up.” (Doelgar)

The two were quietly exchanging words in front of the desk where

Phyrinion had fallen prostrating herself.

“I-I’m worn-out... It was the first time in my life that I studied this much.” (Phyrinion)

“Good work. Ojou-sama, here, please.” (Krinola)

Phyrinion, who received the cup with warm steam rising from it from the smiling Krinola, brimmed with a sweet smile by taking no more than a single sip.

“How sweetly delicious... thanks, Krinola” (Phyrinion)

Black tea sweetened with honey has been Phyrinion’s favourite drink since she was a child. Given that fine quality honey is very expensive,

Krinola only takes it out at special occasions.

The sweet aroma tickling the nose and the faint bitter taste are able to heal her tired mind.

That's when she was called out by Caim, who finished grading her.

"I confirmed that you have completed the part prepared as assignment by Feudal Lord-sama without problems. In accordance to the ruler's orders Phyrinion-sama will be welcomed as prefectural governor holding the same authority and rank as the feudal lord's representative." (Caim)

Caim bowed with a "Please treat me well" causing Phyrinion to stand up

in a hurry.

“J-Just a moment! I have only been dispatched to simply help with the territory’s administration. No one told me anything about me becoming something like prefectural governor or the feudal lord’s representative!?” (Phyrinion)

“Is that so? Well, then you’ve been told about this matter now.” (Caim)

Phyrinion flares up as Caim tries to continue the talks with a smooth flow.

“That’s a joke, no? If it was such important task, I would have prepared a lot more diligently!” (Phyrinion)

“Furthermore, such critical task

such as the feudal lord's representative", she sat down on the chair while feeling light-headed.

"Work and such is always something sudden. We, immediately after falling to the status of being slaves, changed into the feudal lord's chess pieces in the blink of an eye while receiving education and practical work experience for merely a few days." (Caim)

"Though I don't consider it to be bad", Caim tightened his mouth for an instant as he talked about their own situation totally out of character. Taking it this far, he changed the topic.

"At any rate, currently the only

person holding a rank of nobility in this territory is Phyrinion-sama. Since it is also the request of Feudal Lord-sama, please accept the post." (Caim)

Phyrinion slowly shook her head at Caim, who is looking directly at her with his grey eyes.

"There is no other way." (Phyrinion)

Phyrinion, standing up, brushes up her green hair.

"Phyrinion el Amazelo will undertake the duty of being the prefectural governor of this place from now on. ... Best regards, Caim-san, Doelgar-san." (Phyrinion)

Grasping the held out right hand in turns, Caim did it with his usual

expressionless face while Doelgar smiled heartily as he replied that he was looking forward to it.

It was the likewise civil official slave, Brokra, who came rushing in at that point.

“Caim-san, A letter has been delivered from Pearson-san asking for support in their independence and alienation from Vichy...” (Brokra)

Hearing Brokra’s words, Caim scanned the letter and handed the letter over to Phyrinion without hesitation.

“You’ve got work right away, feudal lord’s representative. As one part of the enemy nation split away, they

decided to send a letter without caring about appearances in their desire for help." (Caim)

As Phyrinion read the document, her hands trembled due to the sudden, unexpected problem.

"Well then, what do you want to do?" (Caim)

And yet Caim mercilessly pressed her for a decision.

☺☻☺

The Fokalore territorial army's main occupation was to hunt for the sake of supplying food. They aren't just military forces but also providers of the ingredients used by the staff members for the meals. They are putting great efforts into

making luxurious meals with the scarce budget every day.

In reality, having directly competed with the enemy, it was basically daily training so that they could fight against an invasion from Vichy.

Even increasing their numbers by recruitment, they were in high spirits due to the expedition as it had been a while since they could actually fight. But, now that they came even as far as the national border, they saw how their leader, Hifumi, went wild as he pleases whereas the border guards scavenged for loot just like hyenas.

Without a replenishment of soldiers on Horant's side, the

substantial border area has become a captured territory of Orsongrande.

“It seems he rampaged flashily around once again, eh?” (Guard)

Alyssa, who caught the words of the soldiers from the border security, couldn’t help but smile bitterly due to the usual antics of Hifumi.

Even though they had explained it to the soldiers, they didn’t want to believe that such child was the commanding officer of the territorial troops. But as they saw the soldiers move briskly upon Alyssa’s order, they understood that they were far above in proficiency and treated her even more politely than their own superior officer.

“Earl Tohno has passed through the border 3 days ago. After completely destroying the enemy, he departed aiming for the capital of Horant.” (Guard)

“Three days, huh…?” (Alyssa)

Before we arrive at the capital ourselves, the majority of the business will be finished, it seems, she thought.

Since Miyukare didn’t accompany her this time, she was told by Hifumi “Think about it and act appropriately.” In accordance with that order, she considered things properly.

“Yea… Anyway, let’s chase after Hifumi? There might be something

we can help with.” (Alyssa)

“Understood! You heard her, everyone!” (Soldier)

With an “Aye” the voices of the burly men resounded frightening the guards.

“Get some rest here today and then let’s depart tomorrow morning. Guard-san, I want to borrow some camping site, but...” (Alyssa)

As Alyssa pleaded with upturned eyes, the guard had no other choice but to agree due to the territorial soldiers applying pressure on him in silence from her back.

☺☻☺

The former soldiers of Horant, who

regained their ego after being abused by Hifumi in the name of rescue, moved along the highway in groups heading towards Fokalore on foot.

In addition to a part of the Fokalore territorial army as escort, there were the survivors of the Second Knight Order, who were returning to the capital temporarily.

Of course, Vaiya is also one of them.

The travel takes two days. Without any particular problems occurring either, they quickly got on good terms as it had naturally became an easygoing mood due to being able to eat plenty as the Fokalore territorial soldiers went hunting for

monster meat and as there was grain on the wagon.

“Then, you were in the group transferred from the capital?” (Vaiya)

“Yea, I was a soldier of the capital, but after hearing that it was possible to join a new territorial army, I volunteered as I have no family anyway.” (Soldier)

In order to listen closely to the story, Vaiya takes the bridle of his horse and walks together with the soldier.

The soldier was thankful for a knight expressly dismounting his horse first to walk alongside him. It reached the point that he showed a

smile while they were talking about this and that.

“At first I was anxious hearing that it is the territory of a rising noble, which I didn’t know before, but after looking at the condition of the territory, I was amazed that it was a quite able Feudal Lord-sama, who dealt with the population in a carefree and impartial manner and who was a person treated even us common soldiers normally.” (Soldier)

“But on the other hand the training is pretty harsh and there are also various things I don’t get the meaning of”, Vaiya was caught in the grumbling of the soldier.

“What’s an example of the things

you don't get the meaning of?" (Vaiya)

"Let's see..." (Soldier)

Listening to the story of the soldier, Vaiya received an impact as if being hit on his head.

They, the Fokalore territorial soldiers, received training using various imaginary situations such as group battles, one-to-many fights, one-on-one fights and fighting with the three types of weapons, sword, spear and bow. Furthermore they carried out repetitions of moving as a small units and army corps learning how to move and at what time. They prepared even various patterns in different environments such as

forest, downtown, buildings and prairie, and how to use spear throwers there.

Moreover he heard the unfamiliar word “style practise” when it came to methods of sword and spear training. He understood that they repeatedly practised although the pattern changed to using these weapons in serial combination moves, as he asked some questions due to his excitement.

“I see...” (Vaiya)

With the knight’s training being one-on-one to increase the ability in swordsmanship and spearmanship, it was typical to repeat nothing but practise swings for self-training.

It’s the same for soldiers as well. Their training is no more than learning to return running upon signals and yelling.

The training regimen of the Fokalore territorial army has advanced one or two steps ahead of the capital or the other territory armies, Vaiya believed.

If I think back now, after they finished setting up the camp last night, the Fokalore territorial soldiers, holding a sword in turns, were repeating motions facing against something. That has been style practise, I guess.

“I have a single request, but…” (Vaiya)

The soldier returned a smile albeit being surprised due to the abruptly started words.

“I wonder if it isn’t possible for me to take part in your training as well?” (Vaiya)

Vaiya thought that if he were to absorb the training methods of the Fokalore territorial soldiers here, he would be able to improve Orsongrande by a lot.

☺☻☺

“Then, this and this. And also that. You guys have to eat plentifully as well. Our destination is still far away.” (Hifumi)

Urged on by Hifumi, Origa ordered boiled vegetables and soup

following his example. Next the Fokalore territorial soldiers also ordered meat and bread.

The restaurant server, listening to the orders, showed a cramped smile with a pale face. As there were no other guests in the restaurant, he vanished into the kitchen quickly.

Hifumi, who leisurely entered the city after killing the guards, entered the restaurant he noticed by chance and had lunch.

The uproar has already spread across the city. Many shops and residential buildings have ended up closing their doors tightly and the people have vanished from the streets.

Hifumi entered the restaurant, which had bad luck for its paying guests running away in a hurry, before it could close up.

Since they didn't know what would happen if they refused, the server and cook prepared the meals and dished them up in their desire to have them fill up their stomachs and leave as soon as possible.

"I-I'm sorry to have kept you waiting." (Server)

The server lined up one dish after the other on the table, but Hifumi tilted his head to the side.

"... Isn't that somehow insufficient?" (Hifumi)

The plates aren't any different in

size to other countries, however the dishes on top of them are obviously lacking.

“Please forgive this. Although it is food rationing suited for restaurants, there are limits...” (Server)

While being scared the server mustered his courage with all his effort and explained the details to Hifumi, who discovered the part that bothered him.

“Food rationing? Then, aren’t ingredients distributed and sold in this city?” (Hifumi)

Tossing the cooking in front of his eyes into his mouth for the time being, he muttered that the taste

was bad after swallowing it down.

“Such regulations are enacted in the entire country. All the goods like groceries and such are gathered by the nobles once they are supplied to the territory and distributed to each household from there.” (Server)

Having the scared server forcibly sit at the table, Hifumi inquires about this and that to get the whole picture of the country called Horant.

By rationing the clothing and grocery, it has become a system of lending those from the nobles without families or individuals having their own personal effects. And quite a big part of the money earned by individuals seems to be

taken away as taxes in the name of residence expenses.

“It seems you don’t have to worry about not being able to eat, but there isn’t any meaning in doing one’s best either, isn’t that right?” (Origa)

The impression of Origa, who had the occupation of adventurer with distinct risks and returns, was that she wasn’t able to understand this system somehow. There isn’t an adventurer’s guild in Horant either. Apparently the task of exterminating monsters is exclusively allocated to the soldiers employed by nobles.

“Since these types of security guarantee costs are included in the

taxes as well…” (Server)

You can’t call it an insult in the least, but he isn’t able to hide his feelings of being bothered by it.

“Huuumph. And if you are given ingredients alongside money?” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, standing up suddenly, retrieved suitable ingredients from his darkness magic storage and placed it on an open table with a thud.

It is an amount that can easily feed dozens of people with meals.

“T-This is…” (Server)

Striking the shoulder of the shocked server, Hifumi smiles broadly.

“To be frank, server, prepare a lot more since you have extra ingredients. The taste isn’t bad.” (Hifumi)

“U-Understood!” (Server)

Hurriedly calling the cook, both of them carry the ingredients to the kitchen while being thankful.

Before long more dishes were carried in. The quantity as well as the taste were satisfying.

“Although the flavour changes if it’s a different country, you ate a considerable amount.” (Server)

“Yes, it was very delicious.” (Hifumi)

The server bowed with a smile from

the bottom of his heart this time due to Hifumi's words. Next to him was the cook, who appeared from the kitchen to give his gratitude for the ingredients.

"For the time being, will this be enough?" (Hifumi)

As Hifumi wanted to pass them several gold coins, the server firmly refused to accept it as they had even received the ingredients.

"Besides, we won't be able to use the gold coins from Orsongrande in this country..." (Server)

Due to the server saying this apologetically, Hifumi laughed about this matter.

"If that's the case, it will be fine, if

you hide it somewhere for a little while. Because this country will very soon vanish, the folks worrying about such trivial matters, like the shape of gold coins being different, will disappear." (Hifumi)

"Ue?" (Server)

The server unintentionally released a strange voice due to having been promised a ruined country suddenly. He saw off Hifumi's group quickly leaving in blank amazement.

Observing the cook, he is also looking in that direction.

"Did that person say that this country will vanish just now?" (Cook)

“Yea, he definitely said that.” (Server)

The story told by the people of this city informed them of an atrocious invader who massacred the guards of this city, but with the exchange from just now, their impression of him turned 180°.

But his last words were completely those of an invader.

The cook called out to the confused server and hit his back with a smack.

“There’s no point in thinking about stuff we don’t understand. Also, leaving that aside...” (Cook)

He points at the other ingredients left by Hifumi.

“The restaurant has already been closed for today. Let’s stuff our bellies for the first time in a while.” (Cook)

“… Yea, that’s right.” (Server)

“There is delicious looking meat and fresh vegetables!” While the two discussed the art of cooking, it became a time of enjoying eating before long.

Chapter 63: So Lonely

The information that Hifumi invaded Horant has been brought not to the king but to Veldore. For that to happen, Yugu manoeuvred within the castle. But that's something Veldore doesn't know.

"They stepped into our country, you say?" (Yugu)

"It looks like he annihilated our border guards." (Messenger)

Yugu, who listened to the report along Veldore, sighed.

"However, if it's a small group of 10

people, it will be simple to crush them before they barely manage to reach the capital." (Veldore)

Hearing the words of Veldore, the soldier, who came to report, timidly remarked,

"That is... they have already broken through two cities. They are believed to arrive at the capital within a few days..." (Messenger)

Veldore, standing up suddenly, threw the porcelain sake cup in his hand on the floor.

"Why weren't we informed of this before?" (Veldore)

The soldier, who completely shrunk away, kneeled while trembling.

“Please calm down, Veldore-sama. ... This might be a good opportunity.” (Yugu)

“What do you mean?” (Veldore)

Yugu had the soldier withdraw and lowered his voice so that others wouldn’t be able to hear it.

“I will draw a plot like this.” (Yugu)

Quietly whispering the plan into Veldore’s ears. It was a method to spectacularly and honourably rise to the crown in a way desirable for Veldore.

Although Veldore was laughing and grinning broadly, he felt a sudden doubt.

“However, the king’s surrounding is

guarded by the soldiers of the Imperial Guard. They don't smell like soldiers I could entice to my side. Won't it be impossible to advance the plan without having such pawns to begin with?" (Veldore)

"You are jesting. I have prepared the strongest private army You think they aren't?" (Yugu)

"... You want to use that, huh?" (Veldore)

"It's just the right opportunity. Let's show the people the strength of their new king." (Yugu)

Veldore hesitated.

The private army of Veldore, that Yugu means, are soldiers in name

only as they are experimental bodies, but although they are in a condition possible to be controlled, they repeatedly went through experiments of implantation, medication and such. You absolutely can't show their faces and figures in public as their appearance can be called nothing more but "somehow able to keep a human shape."

"There's no necessity to be worried. The combat will be limited to within the castle only. At the time they are shown to the public, their whole body will be entirely covered in armour." (Yugu)

"Uh huh..." (Veldore)

"Please leave the arrangements to

me, even including that area." (Yugu)

Velodore thought for a moment as Yugu made an elegant bow, but no other good plan came to mind.

"Very well, we will adopt Yugu's plan." (Veldore)

"Please leave it to me." (Yugu)

Yugu, who raised his face, laughed while twirling his moustache.

☺☻☺

Silence is spreading during the audience.

In front of the princess, who is standing next to the throne, the Third Knight Unit's Captain

Lotomago and Prime Minister Adol are kneeling. On both sides of the room guards are lined up in a row. They are uniformly filled with grave looks. Everyone's but the princess's facial expression is clouded. They aren't mourning over the prince. That is in consideration of the princess who knew about the death of her brother.

There is no one but Imeraria who genuinely mourns over the death of the prince.

"... My brother has been killed by Hifumi after all...?" (Imeraria)

"No... we have received the report that the prince was killed by someone called Origa who is Earl Tohno's attendant." (Lotomago)

It was Lotomago denying Imeraria's suspicion.

He, who belatedly received the report, forced the information upon the princess disregarding Adol's inhibition. Adol, being reluctantly next to him, tried to do a follow-up for Imeraria.

"Origa-san is..." (Adol)

Imeraria recalled her giving off the impression to always be at Hifumi's side and that she was a woman having a lovely face with eyes concealing a strong ambition while being of the same age as her, although she didn't talk much with her.

Imeraria, who was about to lose her

strength due to Lotomago's words telling the circumstances at that time, frantically strengthened her feet to keep standing.

What came over my younger brother. I wonder if he went to the battlefield thinking of it as going on a pleasure jaunt as he has been manipulated by his surroundings. Though still being a child which hasn't yet gone to the front, he became engrossed in fooling around and being waited upon by women.

No matter what, Imeraria didn't bear any grudge against Origa.

Once she heard the circumstances and learned about the extent, it was obvious that her younger brother

didn't have the qualification to be the king. She couldn't consider it anything but him reaping what he sowed.

However, in the end he was the last other remaining royalty. Despite great efforts into protecting him, she ended up loosing her young brother easily and lost hope herself too.

Imeraria is barely standing due to nothing but her responsibility as royalty.

"... Is there anyone else who saw the actual scene?" (Imeraria)

"Ha! Except the knight who reported it to me, there is someone from the Second Knight Order, who

returned today." (Lotomago)

Lotomago, obtaining Imeraria's permission, had the waiting knight enter the audience room.

It was Vaiya, who came entering while holding his helmet under his arm and straightening his back quickly.

Coming to a stop slightly behind Lotomago and Adol, he quietly fell to his knees and bowed his head.

"I allow you to speak freely. Please tell us everything you observed." (Imeraria)

"Ha!" (Vaiya)

Having been permitted to stand up so that everyone could hear him

clearly, Vaiya explained in detail what happened for the situation to have such outcome and in what kind of situation the Second Knight Order, First Knight Order, Hifumi and Biron had been while cautiously making sure to not have eye contact with the princess.

Everyone, who was at the audience, listened attentively to the report without interrupting.

Even more than the merciless annihilation of the prince faction by Hifumi, Imeraria hasn't even any words for the enhancement of the live-experiment imitation-soldiers performed by Vichy.

Furthermore Vaiya reported that a part of the Fokalore feudal army, en

route to return, is accompanied by the rescued, former soldier of Horant and that they are currently taking a rest in borrowed barracks of the capital.

“And, what’s the matter with Hifumi-sama and the main force of the Fokalore feudal army?” (Imeraria)

“Earl Tohno and a part of the soldiers have gone ahead to invade the territory of Horant. Having completely annihilated the enemy’s border guards, they are headed for the capital of the enemy nation. The main force is following Earl Tohno with a delay of half a day.” (Vaiya)

Imeraria was at her wits’ end due to

Vaiya's words.

"Even though we didn't even hold peace talks with Vichy yet... Though it is probably futile to try stopping him as well." (Imeraria)

"At any rate", Imeraria looked at Vaiya standing in front of her.

"You are a knight belonging to the Second Knight Order, right? I thought your standpoint was to support my younger brother. Why are you on the side of the Third Knight Order's Captain Lotomago?" (Imeraria)

"Ha! I'm just a single knight. Since I only followed my captain's policy, I think I want to keep a distance from things like political deals and

factions myself. However, due to the failure this time there are only a few survivors of the Second Knight Order. Because it reached a situation about which nothing can be done and as we didn't have any authority, I consulted about our future course with the Third Knight Order's captain." (Vaiya)

Lotomago, who fully grasped the circumstances, acknowledged to look after the Second Knight Order and apparently ordered him to report that to Imeraria.

"I see... Understood. From this point on the Second Knight Order is dissolved. The Third Knight Order will be treated as Orsongrande's sole knight order. I will entrust the continuation to act as captain to

Lotomago." (Imeraria)

Lotomago opened his mouth due to Imeraria asking him whether that's fine.

"With all due respect... I won't object either and will gladly accept serving as captain of the unified knight order, however I think that you are too generous to grant me this post, especially in regards to consolidating the knight orders." (Lotomago)

"However", Lotomago lifted his head.

"It's undesirable for anyone but Imeraria-sama to consolidate the core of the national military forces. Supposing that the imperial guard

is the only other organisation besides the knight order, I wonder, in my humble opinion, whether it would be fine for it to take the shape of Imeraria-sama being in command." (Lotomago)

The prime minister also expressed his approval towards Lotomago's recommendation.

If Lotomago had stayed silent, he would have ascended to the highest position concerning the national military affairs, the knights in the surrounding thought as they exchanged looks with each other.

"Understood. I highly appreciate the good sense and judgement of Lotomago. And for the newly organised Imperial Knight Order...

do you want to nominate anyone?” (Imeraria)

“Ha! Although he is young, he is a knight possessing a pragmatic judgement. I nominate Sabnak. And as his advisor and vice-captain, Vaiya over here.” (Lotomago)

Due to Lotomago’s words, Vaiya, who had kneeled down again, spontaneously raised his head. It was the first time he had heard about being recommended.

“Let me ask for the reason.” (Imeraria)

“Sabnak is an acquaintance of Earl Tohno. He has received the Earl’s influence in a good way. Either way, I think that he also able to handle

things flexibly. He even has such degree of managerial ability that he had been requested by the Earl to aid in the administration of the territory. He has insufficient experience, but that's no problem to begin with." (Lotomago)

After having said this much, Lotomago looks at Vaiya with a fleeting glance.

"Even Vaiya here gathered the already scattered soldiers and returned alive while his knight order was devastated. He also experienced actual combat and seems to be able to use his quick wit. It looks like he even has the ability to only keep a supportive relation with Earl Tohno. Isn't he a capable and valuable person that

parted with the knight order, he belonged to, for a reason? He brought to me suggestions how to increase the strength of this country's soldiers thanks to new discoveries." (Lotomago)

"Suggestions, it is?" (Imeraria)

Lotomago was relieved within his mind because of Imeraria having an interest in the matter.

It's very likely that the fronts in the vicinity of the country will spread from here on out. I would have been troubled, if she wasn't sensitive to suggestions affecting the national defence.

"Yes. It's about the training of the Fokalore territorial soldiers carried

out according to Earl Tohno's guidance..." (Lotomago)

The establishment of the new Imperial Knight Order, following the idea of Lotomago and Vaiya, was acknowledged on the same day.

Vaiya would become the acting captain of the Imperial Knight Order until Sabnak returned from Münster.

Vaiya, who was even ready to be expelled from the knight order, became nervous due to being suddenly appointed an important post, but Sabnak, abruptly learning of his appointment as captain of the Imperial Knight Order from an official document delivered by a messenger, was even more

confused. Reading the document, that was handed to him through Biron, he raised a silent scream. Even going as far as to suspect it being a vicious prank, he didn't come out from his own room for a while.

☺☻☺

"Oh, magicians discovered." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who was advancing on Horant's highway in high spirits, chuckles as he has discovered several people wearing robes mixed among the group approaching from the front.

Within the group, being a military unit having around 30 members,

including the soldiers holding swords, there are 5 people having the suitable appearance of magicians. They are properly assembled in the middle of the soldiers' ranks.

Due to the defencelessly approaching Hifumi, the soldiers, being combat-ready, told him to come to a stop.

But Hifumi ignores that.

While Origa's group was on standby slightly separated at the rear, they were watching out whether there was something like an ambush lying in wait in the vicinity. Even this was because of Hifumi's order.

“You are magicians, I guess? There just a few things I want to ask about the institutions of the capital.” (Hifumi)

The magicians faced the man, who suddenly appeared in front of them, with sullen faces.

“You bastard! We are a special unit directly under the command of Yugu-sama!” (Soldier A)

The ignored soldier suddenly and forcefully drew near to threaten Hifumi.

“You’re annoying.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi’s left hand hit the face of the soldier, who came in front of him, with a slap.

Although no one in the surrounding saw it, it was a dirty strike fully hitting an eye with the index finger.

“Ugigi...” (Soldier A)

Leaving alone the soldier, who crouched down and held his face due to the sudden pain, Hifumi turned to the magicians.

“The institution in charge of researching magic tools is probably close to the castle, right? Tell me the location.” (Hifumi)

“W-Who do you think are...” (Magician A)

The magician, taken aback by Hifumi’s behaviour of extreme high-handedness, was barely able to squeeze out those words.

“Ah, I didn’t introduce myself yet.” (Hifumi)

“Sorry, my bad”, Hifumi sneered.

“I’m an Earl of Orsongrande, Hifumi.” (Hifumi)

“So, the location is?” The soldiers curtly took a distance from Hifumi, who repeated his question.

As the soldiers took out their weapons in a hurry, Hifumi’s mouth crooked and he leaked his dissatisfaction.

“What’s this about! Although I started a peaceful conversation, I get this treatment.” (Hifumi)

Once he looks, the magicians are grasping their daggers and have

begun to chant something.

Even the soldier, who held his face, stood up and drew his sword with a furious expression having a deep red left eye.

Hifumi, confirming with a glance that he was surrounded in a circle, suddenly made a big step.

“Gue” (Magician)

Blowing one magician away with a front kick into his stomach, only one person was separated from the group.

The magician bouncing around two times, has collapsed becoming completely limp just like that.

“It’s fine if only that guy remains.”

(Hifumi)

While saying that, Hifumi retrieved the sansetsukon from his storage.

“Well, let’s do it” (Hifumi)

“Don’t make fun of us!” (Soldier A – yea, he’s still alive...)

As Hifumi avoided the approaching soldier from the beginning with a light sway of his body, fire and wind spells came flying from the magicians.

With their way of having attained considerable cooperation, their attacks have been skilfully shot out-of-the-way of the soldiers holding swords.

“Heave ho.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, deciding to remove the distance to the man who came assaulting with his sword, quickly seized his neck and switched places with him.

“Ugiyaaaa!” (Soldier A – finally dead)

The man, wounded by wind blades and having his body covered in flames, rolled around for a moment, but then stopped moving almost immediately.

“It stinks.” (Hifumi)

Frowning due to the stench of meat being burned, Hifumi is attacked by soldiers one after the other.

Though they were quite expert in their methods of attacking while

shifting the vanguards, Hifumi saw through a certain flaw they had.

Getting close to reach the person trying to withdraw, he stabs the throat with the tip of his staff killing the soldier.

As that soldier was thrown into the ranks of the soldiers due to the force, chaos spread for an instant.

“It looks like you practised with opponents that aren’t moving. Living things are different from wooden dolls.” (Hifumi)

It might be valid if the opponent’s goal is an escort target or group battle so that they can lure the opponent to exhaust themselves by switching their ranks in a fixed

rotation, but it's different if the opponent is a small group and even more so if the opponent doesn't stop to move around.

As he completely stepped into their ranks, Hifumi, storing away the inconvenient sansetsukon before anyone noticed, gripped a suntetsu in his right hand among the group that was bunched up together without being able to swing their swords.

"You are far too close to swing around long swords~" (Hifumi)

He is burying and stabbing the suntetsu successively into eyeballs, heads and temples of the foreheads.

It's a mass production of corpses

and heavily wounded.

“Occasionally such melee is fun.” (Hifumi)

Storing away the suntetsu, he laughs merrily holding the kodachi, which was something that wasn’t produced and used in this world, in a reverse grip.

Gently cutting through the carotid artery just as he is passing by, he stabs a different opponent as he slips past the spray of blood.

Furthermore, grabbing the neck of the next enemy, he draws the soldier to himself while sliding the blade into the armpit where there is no armour.

Hifumi doesn’t miss several

enemies trying to quietly break away after he plastered the highway with fresh blood.

As a single person of those withdrawing tried to retrieve the magician, who was lying down at the side, an iron pebble sank into the back of his neck.

“I have business with that guy. Restrain yourselves from taking him away.” (Hifumi)

At the time Hifumi said that, more than half of the soldiers from Horant had fallen.

The other soldiers of Horant, noticing that there are people trying to get away, understood the state of affairs and scattered away from

Hifumi.

“Tsk…” (Soldier)

A single person of those withdrawing clicks his tongue.

“You guys didn’t have an interest in fighting from the start. You had a reaction as if you even knew my face.” (Hifumi)

As Hifumi points that out, they raise a groan.

“Bull’s eye, eh? It looks like it’s necessary to listen to your guy’s story for a bit, riiight?” (Hifumi)

Changing the kodachi to an overhand grip by rotating it around, he holds out the blades point in a stance of having one leg bent in

front and the other extended behind. Still having a pebble in his left hand, he is playing around with it with his fingertips.

“Well then, do you want to attempt escaping? Or do you want to test whether you can win?” (Hifumi)

“I won’t allow any choices besides those two”, Hifumi said as he swung the kodachi.

Chapter 64: Desecration Smile

Ayperos' corpse was laid out in an imposing coffin and donned gorgeous silken clothes.

He was put inside making sure that the stitches on his head didn't stand out, but the out-of-place feeling couldn't be eliminated after all.

Imeraria, staring at the corpse of her younger brother with eyes concealing her emotions, just sat motionlessly next to the corpse without showing any tears.

The room right next to the audience hall was a small room for the king

to carry out secret and private talks. The coffin, placed on top of a pedestal with wheels attached for transporting it, is enshrined in the centre of the room. Imeraria is the only person sitting as there was only one chair set up to be in the coffin's surroundings.

It was Prime Minister Adol who came entering quietly into the room dominated by silence.

"... Excuse me." (Adol)

As he bows towards Imeraria, who doesn't show any reaction, Adol lowered his head, putting his right hand on his chest, after seeing the corpse of the prince.

As he moved by the etiquette of

polite condolences, Imeraria stood up silently and lightly bowed towards Adol who left the room.

Adol, who saw her figure in the corner of his view, ends up escaping at a quick pace owed to the feeling of not being able to endure being there any longer.

Once he left the room while somehow or other remaining calm, he quietly breathed a sigh.

“An appearance of grief, isn’t it?” (Adol)

Before realising it, there was the face of the shinigami next to Adol.

“Don’t appear without permission. What will we do, if you are seen?” (Adol)

Even as Adol spins his words in a fluster, the shinigami doesn't reply and simply laughs with a giggle.

"Won't it be fine to offer the information about the return spell to princess soon as well?" (Shinigami)

"Don't be foolish. With the current status of me not having yet found a single document, there's no reason to report about the things told by an evil spirit like you." (Adol)

The shinigami chases after Adol, who set off with his shoulders heaving in anger, while its legs are shaking and staggering.

"Offer hope to the hurt princess. Wouldn't there be various troubles

for you as well as the nation if the princess was dispirited?"
(Shinigami)

Glaring at him with eyes full of annoyance, Adol entered the reference room.

"Stop pretending to be worried about this country when you're nothing more than an evil spirit. It's unpleasant." (Adol)

"Oh my! Although I may appear to be this way, I'm a god who earnestly aids people to survive." (Shinigami)

"... What are you say despite calling yourself a shinigami?" (Adol)

Without shifting his sight, Adol searches for lithographs depicting the return spell and furthermore

documents pertaining similar magic. Having repeatedly used his hands in such way for god-knows how many days, he completely got accustomed to handle the lithographs.

“The souls of those eagerly striving to survive and having then died shine brightly.” (Shinigami)

Stopping his hands for an instant thanks to the words of the god of death, Adol muttered “what bad taste” and continued his search.

At any rate, Adol considers.

(I wonder what will happen to this country after sending home the person called Hifumi?) (Adol)

Although Orsongrande should

probably aim to frantically survive with its current military gains as is, only because the person called Hifumi is an ally even if just for appearance' sake, it is possible for this country to keep standing, even if many people lose their lives thanks to that.

However, Adol abruptly stopped moving his hands.

Even if Hifumi was suddenly gone, it wouldn't mean that the started wars would end right away. Instead, with a part of its largest military strength gone, Orsongrande's position will become agonizing.

(Even if he is sent transferred back to where he came from, if I pay attention to prepare for that in

advance as well...) (Adol)

There's no progress yet, thus this might be hasty though, Adol resumed moving his hands.

☺☻☺

"Congratulations, Sabnak!" (Biron)

Biron raised his sake cup towards Sabnak, who sat in the seat of honour during the dinner organised by Earl Biron.

"Really, I never thought that such a knight would spring forth from my family's home." (Sister)

Sabnak turned his fed up sight towards his elder sister laughing loudly.

“Nee-san, aren’t you well aware that I’m not cut out for such official position?” (Sabnak)

“Ara, your head was always good since you were small. I wonder whether it isn’t better for you to have such a post rather than being at the actual site, especially as you are a greenhorn at swordsmanship?” (Sister)

Biron showed sympathy thanks to the cruel remarks, but Sabnak got used to the speech and conduct of not holding back anything of his elder sister since the old days.

“Anyway, with this, it became necessary for me to return to the royal castle ahead of time. That means, the Imperial Knight Order

appears to have the role of taking care of royalty... though it is currently only Imeraria." (Sabnak)

"Don't worry about this place. It's alright for you to return together with your other order members. With Earl Tohno's support my troops will be alright as there probably won't be any large battle any time soon." (Biron)

Biron, aware of the situation at the border to Horant, assessed the least time likely necessary for Horant to raise a full-scale army to be this much.

"Sabnak, write a letter to father before you go back to the royal castle. I will match it with mine to be sent back home." (Sister)

“That’s right. Since I will send a congratulatory letter to the unpopular father-in-law-sama as well, let’s send them together.” (Biron)

Sabnak ended up becoming slightly embarrassed due to the words of the married couple.

“Thank you very much.” (Sabnak)

The married couple also laughed and smiled seeing the bashful Sabnak.

Sabnak recalled the time he received congratulations for enlisting in the knight order the other day.

Even at that time it felt good to receive congratulations. After that

he earnestly put effort into doing his job. Even after this promotion, he is prepared to face forward and get on with it.

“However, as it is my first time to be appointed to work at the castle, I will be nervous.” (Sabnak)

Slowly savouring the after-meal sake, Sabnak murmured.

“It will probably turn into a talk between men”, Sabnak’s elder sister excused herself temporarily.

“Rather than being a guard, there is likely the aspect of advising Imeraria-sama as well.” (Biron)

Hearing Biron’s words, Sabnak inclined his head to the side.

“Isn’t there the prime minister, Adol, if it’s about advising?” (Sabnak)

“That’s certainly true. But, if Imeraria-sama chose to only listen to his opinion, it would result in narrowing down her thinking. There isn’t only right or wrong. Thinking about various possibilities, hypothesising results, you can state your own opinion that’s different from the prime minister’s and Imeraria-sama’s. I think you will be able to help as statesman, even if it’s only this much.” (Biron)

“Especially given that Imeraria is far too obedient as royalty, she will probably listen too often to the opinion of her surroundings”, Biron

says.

Didn't that invite Pajou's death? Although that question crossed Sabnak's mind for an instant, he was able to agree with Biron's view in itself.

"I think it isn't the sole task of a guard to offer his all as a shield. Someone called a truly superb guard doesn't allow anyone, who is dangerous, to approach the person that ought to be protected, I believe." (Biron)

Sabnak slowly nodded due to Biron's words.

☺☻☺

At the time the magician, who lost his consciousness thanks to being

kicked in the stomach by Hifumi, woke up, he noticed that his body was restricted while grimacing due to the pain of his stomach.

“O-Ouch...” (Magician)

“Oh! You woke up.” (Hifumi)

A voice was audible coming from the magician’s rear.

“The heck...” (Magician)

“I disposed of your other companions. I kept you alive because there are things I want to hear from you.” (Hifumi)

“Quite easy to understand, ain’t it?” The voice from behind says.

As his dim view at last became

clear, he realised his state of being tied as if hugging the stump of a tree.

And he has also recalled the voice of the other party.

It's Hifumi, the man who sent him flying with a kick some time ago.

Even as he tries to turn his face backwards, it isn't enough to see the other party's face.

"Won't your neck hurt if you recklessly try to face this way?" (Hifumi)

"... What's your aim?" (Magician)

While feigning calmness to his utmost, he asked a question, but his voice ended up trembling a bit.

Unable to look at the figure of the other party, his anxiety is stirred up increasingly.

“I told you that I have questions. Won’t you not waste my time and hurry up answering them?”
(Hifumi)

Even though he can’t be seen by the magician, there is one more person tied up. That being said, it isn’t good if he doesn’t listen to the talk of that person either.

“Don’t crew around. I do know that you are an enemy...”

Desperately turning his face, the magician’s view gets blurry in protest. A small iron lump is embedded into the tree stump in

front of him.

Will my vision break off? It suddenly became hot.

“There are two choices. Talk and live or stay silent and die.” (Hifumi)

Due to the magician enduring the pain without answering, Hifumi laughed.

“First of all, the first question is: Where is the capital’s magic tool research institute?” (Hifumi)

A sharp pain is driven into the right shoulder of the magician who remained silent towards Hifumi’s question.

Though he wasn’t able to look at the person himself, a heated hoof

was hammered into the shoulder.

“Gyaaaaa!” (Magician)

“I told you to not waste my time, didn’t I?” (Hifumi)

In the end it took 30 minutes of doing the same thing repeatedly until the magician caved in and spilled all the information.

Hifumi, who learned the location of the research institute as well as the state of its defences, cut the rope binding the magician with his katana while saying “Good work.”

The magician, exhausted to the degree of being unable to stand up, slowly slithers down to his knees while still clinging to the tree.

“It would have been best, if you had told me everything immediately.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who said this indifferently, averted his body noticing something suddenly.

“Guaa!”

It’s a magician’s scream.

Hifumi, running without seeing that, clicked his tongue seeing the soldier from Horant, who ought to be tied up, rising to his knees.

“Are you an idiot? Do it before talking if you get killed due to being forbidden to speak.” (Hifumi)

While he says this, he kicks the soldier’s chin.

“Ubyuu” (Soldier)

While the soldier is scattering spit and teeth,Hifumi tramples down on the chest of the backward-bent soldier. Hifumi thrust his katana in front of him.

“Well then, next it’s your turn.” (Hifumi)

“Fufu, there’s no way I will talk this easily.” (Soldier)

The boldly laughing soldier tried to thrust the sword, he held in his right hand, at his own throat. But he failed.

No sooner than the sound of cutting through the wind with a *fwish* was audible, the right hand, from the elbow to its end, fell

dropping to the ground.

“Eh... ?” (Soldier)

“Did you think you could suicide this easily?” (Hifumi)

As if completely sewing the soldier’s body to the ground, the katana is stabbed into his left shoulder.

“Uguu!” (Soldier)

“Now then, it’s question time. ... Did you know about me?” (Hifumi)

Raising his slit eyes, he faces the soldier with a freezing look.

“Seeing me caused several people to move strangely, don’t you agree? Or rather, didn’t you guys try to make

me chase after you?" (Hifumi)

He thought they will end up staying there if there are magicians, but since they unnaturally were thrifty, they planned to escape while carrying the magicians away when the number of soldiers had decreased, Hifumi accused.

The soldier opened his eyes widely in surprise due to his speech.

Although he hurriedly denied it, Hifumi rather believed what he saw than what he said.

"I see..." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who considered something for a moment, extracted his katana with a *slurp*

Ignoring the soldier who fainted in agony, he heads towards the separated place, where Origa's group was waiting.

Some time during that period, he looked at the magician with a glance, but he had already died.

"Origa." (Hifumi)

"Yes." (Origa)

"Did you hear the location of the research institute? Since I will march into the royal castle by myself after this, snatch the magic tools during the time I'm causing a disturbance and return to Orsongrande." (Hifumi)

"It's fine if you do the aforementioned thing as you are

returning to Fokalore", Hifumi said.

"Understood. Please, be careful..." (Origa)

Hifumi gently smiled due to Origa's anxious words.

"I haven't yet played around in this world sufficiently. I can't die yet." (Hifumi)

Turning on his heel, Hifumi, looking down on the still in pain moaning soldier in front, suddenly takes out a magic potion from with his darkness magic and sprinkles it over the soldier with a *splosh*

The loped off arm didn't reconnect, however the soldier, whose wounds fully closed up, was kicked away by Hifumi without understanding left

from right.

Being smeared with dirt, the soldier, finally raising his head, pays attention to the cold voice of Hifumi.

“Well then, we will play tag up to the royal castle. Let’s have a contest whether you will be faster in clinging to your boss or whether I will be faster in bisecting you.” (Hifumi)

The soldier didn’t comprehend what Hifumi was talking about for a moment, but immediately coming to his senses, he stands up propping up his body with his remaining left hand and began to run while staggering about unable to attain a balance.

“Looking good! It’s been a while since I ran!” (Hifumi)

Tossing the katana into his storage, Hifumi, tying the hem of his hakama, began to run once the distance to the soldier from Horant increased sufficiently.

Chapter 65: War Pigs

The one-armed soldier, discovering the entrance to the capital city, was only slightly relieved after running for around 30 minutes.

Locating the man, dashing on the highway with a frantic look, the guards of Adolamelk were flustered.

“S-Stop! Stop!” (Guard)

“Help me! I’m being chased by an enemy!” (Soldier)

Crying while clinging to the guard, the soldier obviously wore the uniform of regular soldier from

Horant. The guards immediately tried to lead him to the guardroom.

However, the soldier with the one arm exclaims this to be out of the question.

“Those guys, who came from Orsongrande, will soon be here! I have to contact Yugu-sama at the castle at once!” (Soldier)

A single soldier, with a ghastly facial expression, hurried towards the castle.

The moment the one-armed soldier became at least relieved that he was able to pass on the message, he heard the voice from his back he didn’t want to hear the most.

“Thanks for your hard work. Aren’t

you splendidly fast at running?” (Hifumi)

As the soldier timidly turned his head around in a motion similar to a robot with no oil in its joints, he saw the figure of the laughing and smiling Hifumi approaching from his back.

During the time he was unable to stand up due to fear, the surrounding scenery enters his visual field.

On both sides of Hifumi the guards lay in their own blood. While the pools of blood are gradually broadening, the guards aren’t even twitching anymore.

“I guess it isn’t that easy to run

away. Although you have been so close to it." (Hifumi)

As he swung the katana he held in his hands, blood was scattered on the ground with a sound of splatting.

"Uwa..." (Soldier)

His voice of surprise was interrupted by the cutting of his throat.

"Well then, it's fine if I go to the castle next... oh!" (Hifumi)

When he confirmed the spires of the castle visible from the gate, he saw around 10 magicians heading towards his location from the direction of the castle.

“This time it’s a magician-only unit, huh?” (Hifumi)

While saying this, Hifumi had already started dashing towards them.

Noticing their target approaching itself, the magicians are chanting in a hurry. They barely managed to get done with the casting of the spells before they have entered Hifumi’s attack range. Mixing fire and wind, they become fireballs clad in gathered wind blades. The fireballs approach Hifumi while emitting high temperature.

Hifumi laughs daringly without even easing up on his running speed at all.

At the last moment, just when the fireballs were imminent right in front of him, Hifumi lowered his body with a jerk and passed under the hot and blazing fireballs.

Merely a few strains of his hair was burned and the same mere amount was cut off by wind blades.

Even so, without changing his expression, Hifumi, making a large step, ran through the space between the magicians.

In an instant, as he swung his drawn katana mercilessly, he reaped four heads.

The magicians, who opened their eyes in shock, are delayed for a moment as their comrade's heads

fell off like rain.

And even during that time, being completely unable to do anything at short-range, the remaining magicians turned one-by-one into rust on the blade of the katana.

“Alright, next is the castle.”
(Hifumi)

As he lowers the drawn katana, Hifumi runs in order to start his one-man castle siege.

☺◕☺

Currently 5 fully armoured soldiers are standing in front of Yugu’s eyes.

This is the room for the soldiers on standby within the castle.

All of the soldiers, lining up, are looking in a different direction. Their yellow, dirty sets of teeth, which had spaces in-between, where you didn't know just how many teeth there were left, are visible through the partly opened mouths.

They are the soldiers, who were enhanced against their will using them as experimental bodies for the magic tools and magic portions under the leadership of Veldore.

Most of the experimental bodies ended up "broken", but somehow 5 bodies, which could be adjusted to listen to orders, have been gathered.

"I see. It would seem they're already within the castle. If it's this many, it

will likely be enough to deal with them." (Yugu)

An enhanced soldier possesses a strength that can fight around 10 soldiers. They have been clad in a heavy, metal armour, which had a weight a normal person wouldn't be able to move if they put it on.

If the plan proceeded smoothly, their number should be plenty.

"For the time being, don't die until it reaches a conclusion once the king is seized." (Yugu)

The contents of Yugu's suggestion to Veldore was the simple idea to let the enemies invade on purpose and have them killed alongside the king.

Even if the invaders don't reach the king, with just the fact that enemies invaded the castle, we will be able to handle it in some way, he judged.

At that moment, a soldier under Yugu rushed into the room.

"Yugu-sama! The enemy is breaking though the castle gate!" (Soldier)

"... Quite fast, aren't they?" (Yugu)

Going by Yugu's estimation, they would come into contact with the enemy at earliest today evening. Though he predicted that it would likely be during the day tomorrow.

Currently there are also many unrelated parties besides the prince faction, created by Yugu, remaining. It's very probable that they would

see the enhanced soldiers.

“There’s no other way. While dealing with the general mobilisation of the currently available magicians, have the servants and the nobles, including the folks of our faction as well, exit from the back under the name of evacuation.” (Yugu)

When hearing the announcement that the enhanced soldiers would move once a fixed period of time passed, the soldier, who came as messenger, leaves the room to execute the command.

“Well, if they were to be seen, we will have the witnesses disappear during the battle.” (Yugu)

For the sake of telling Veldore the state of affairs, Yugu also left the room while the enhanced soldiers remained there on standby.

There was something Yugu hadn't confirmed and the messenger didn't tell him either.

It's that there's only one intruder and that this intruder had annihilated the city's soldiers all by himself.

And, that the location of the remaining enemies, who should originally be around 10, was unknown. Veldore's and Yugu's aim greatly derailed.

☺◕☺

Once it reached the point that

screams from the direction of the castle were audible, the citizens of Adolamelk ended up completely frightened. The fleeing people and the people headed for their homes showed a look of confusion as Hifumi passed them headed in the opposite direction.

There are many citizens in the capital with most of them showing a gloomy expression. Compared to other cities, there are likely especially many wealthy people. Those, who had gathered a large family fortune, can even be seen moving while being protected by guards.

The situation of the coming and going carriages and wagons evolved into a serious congestion on the

streets, but that made it rather easy for Origa's group to move without standing out.

"Now then, going by the information obtained by Hifumi-sama, the research institute should be right next to the royal castle. Let's hurry." (Origa)

The Fokalore territorial soldiers desperately chased after Origa, who was advancing with a visibly wild excitement due to the having been entrusted a great task by Hifumi, while pulling the wagons.

As they approached the royal castle, the number of people became sparse. At the time they finally arrived in front of the research institute, no one could be found in

the vicinity.

From the direction of the castle, where Hifumi apparently raged to his heart's content, screams were still occasionally audible.

Did they went there as reinforcements? Even the guards, who were expected to be here, are nowhere to be found.

Although the wooden gate, that leads onto the grounds, was closed, it easily opened after being pushed lightly.

Origa checks out the interior with wind magic through a slightly opened gap of the door.

Having completely gotten accustomed to use echolocation,

she located the two people, being within the grounds while holding weapons, with her probing.

Given that they were lining up in just the right way, she slit their throats by deploying wind blades without the slightest hint of hesitation.

“I will have the people, who are a hindrance to my orders I received from Hifumi-sama, die.” (Origa)

Quickly stepping into the grounds, Origa’s group, who left the only two lookouts behind, has discovered a building with sturdy-looking gate that was secured by a bolt from the outside.

“What’s this about?” (Origa)

One of the soldier from Fokalore murmured due to Origa's question,

"The circumstances that it is secured from the outside means that someone has been locked up inside? Or it has been only closed from the outside as it is a storehouse?" (Soldier)

"We won't know unless we make sure, right? If it's a storehouse, it's possible that we might find our objective there." (Origa)

Cautiously unfastening the bolt, she quietly opens the door making sure to not stand in front of it.

Multiple groans are audible from within.

"... Monsters?"

As someone muttered that, they wouldn't know the answer without examining the interior.

Origa, peering inside at once, shook her shoulders with a start for an instant due to the scene spreading in front of her eyes.

"... Origa-san?" (Soldier)

"Let's go inside. This place appears to be a prison." (Origa)

The soldiers thought they had no business here if it was a prison, but due to Origa entering inside quickly, they followed after here since they were also too scared to object.

"Uwaa!" (Soldier)

The interior of the building consisted of a single floor with no partitions. Rows of people were tied to the walls with chains.

All of them, drooling with eyes having lost any kind of reasoning, are threatening the soldiers in front of them with their teeth. Although their limbs have been fixed by the chains, they are trying to escape from their constraints while making cluttering sounds, being no different from struggling, wild beasts.

Each of them, being nude, has the characteristic magic tool embedded within their chest.

“These are the people who turned ferocious through the magic tools,

aren't they?" (Origa)

Origa remembered people who became like this.

"Then..." (Soldier)

"The magic tools are probably in another building. This place seems to be the location where the people, who were used as experiments, are imprisoned." (Origa)

In contrast to Origa, who calmly studied them, the soldiers looked at the experimental bodies with pale faces wondering whether those have originally been humans.

Suddenly Origa noticed that some of the chains were opened.

Once taking a closer look, the

bracelet parts were still damp with the blood of people clinging to them.

“It looks like several were taken somewhere, but...” (Origa)

Origa, immersing herself in her consideration, passes time with her thoughts going in circles on how to move the violently struggling experimental bodies.

Abruptly hitting upon something, Origa began to cast targeting one of the experimental bodies with the arm where her magic dagger was affixed.

After several seconds the experimental body’s face is covered with a bucket-load of water.

Although it struggled even more vehemently at the beginning, it completely hung limply in the chains without taking a minute.

Getting rid of the water, the eyes of Origa, looking at the state of the experimental body, shine with a cool-headedness as they confirm it barely not dying.

“I see. It’s because it had been suffocating.” (Origa)

Origa, turning around to the totally frightened soldiers from Fokalore, gave them orders with a refreshing smile.

“Let’s use those experimental bodies as well. For the sake of Hifumi-sama.” (Origa) (T/N: They

yandere is on fire!)

The Fokalore soldier had no other choice but to nod.

☺◕☺

“My king, an enemy invaded into the castle.” (Veldore)

Veldore, leading Yugu and an enhanced soldier equipped with a huge sword, looked up to the king sitting on the throne in the audience hall.

Commotion spread among the nobles and soldiers present at the audience due to Veldore’s words, but the king controlled them by raising his hand.

“... So? Why are you, who should

leave this matter to the guards, here? And, what's that monster standing behind you?" (Suprangel)

Veldore isn't even able to conceal his smile due to the king's words.

"This is my prided, magic-tool-using, enhanced soldier. This one unit has a strength rivalling that of 10, no, 20 ordinary soldiers." (Veldore)

"If that's the case, why did you bring it to this place? It's probably more reasonable to use it for the defence of the castle." (Suprangel)

"Fufufu..." (Veldore)

"What's so funny?" (Suprangel)

The king can't hide his discomfort

caused by Veldore boldly laughing while showing his white teeth.

“You still don’t understand? It looks like you’ve grown old and senile...” (Veldore)

“Veldore-sama, this is too much...” (Noble)

“Shut up.” (Veldore)

One of the nobles tries to remonstrate Veldore, however ended up being silenced quickly.

“I will have you concede the throne from here on out. And, becoming the new king, I will show you how to get over this crisis.” (Veldore)

No sooner than Veldore saying this, an ordinary soldier, who stood close

to the exit, inserted a stick into the door's handle upon Yugu's order.

"... You lost your mind, huh?"
(Suprangel)

"Not at all! Many people have become tired of the far too long reign of the present king. Answering those voices, I'm only trying to improve Horant."
(Veldore)

"Are you insisting to the last that it isn't out of selfish desire?"
(Suprangel)

Seeing the king rising with a "Very well", Veldore expected the king to resign without resistance, but the next words of the king were the exact opposite.

“Soldiers, arrest Veldore! This person is a rebel!” (Suprangel)

As Veldore shakes his head in disappointment, the royal guards within the room approach him slowly, however the enhanced soldier has positioned itself in their way.

The instant the royal guards flinched, seeing its face and understanding with a glance that it isn’t sane, they were mowed down all at once as it brandished the large sword.

“While you are at it, get rid of the bothersome witnesses as well.” (Yugu)

Upon Yugu’s command the

enhanced soldier, who had massacred the royal guards, attacked the nobles and civil officials inside the room wielding its large sword.

Although they try to run away within the confined room, a pile of corpses is produced without even much time passing.

The figure, swinging its sword just like a stick without any kind of technique, made Veldore lift the corners of his mouth a visibly exhilarated joy, but the king gazed at the terrible spectacle in front of his eyes with a grim face.

(This country is finished as well, huh... ?) (Suprangel)

While thinking about the matter of him also getting gruesomely killed eventually, he sighed wondering where he went wrong in Veldore's education. He sat down on the throne he had been continuously sitting on for several dozen years.

Now that I think about it, even I had to desperately produce achievements during my early days after I ascended to the throne, the king recalled calmly for some reason. Unable to think of anything but going straight ahead during my youth I considered military gains as long as it brought achievements. If I consider this now, it even cause unreasonable wars.

As a result of that, the country's assets decreased. Even now the

people are forcibly burdened with a lot by the country.

I don't know whether I had been correct as king, but I can tell that if it's someone nearby betraying me in the end, I likely committed large mistakes in some respects.

Once he realised this, everyone, the nobles as well as the civil officials, turned into corpses that completely looked as if they had been devoured by a monster.

Within the enveloping stench of blood, Veldore looks as if feeling sick.

"Pitiful..." (Suprangel)

As the king muttered that single word, Yugu drew close, holding a

handkerchief against his mouth in exchange for Veldore, who still hadn't recovered yet.

"My king. Get ready." (Yugu)

As he was just fixedly watching at Veldore's figure, without replying to Yugu, the door, which should have been blocked, burst open making a fierce sound. As the door was forcibly smashed to the extent of the opening and shutting direction being in reverse, the metal fixtures were sent flying and hit Veldore in the audience hall making him easily black out.

"Ah, this is opened the other way?" (Hifumi)

Entering while saying such a thing,

being entirely dyed in red from spurts of blood and holding the katana in his right hand and the kodachi in his left was Hifumi.

Although his dougi is disarranged with his chest being exposed, he has no mentionable injuries.

“Oh, this guy is one of those fellows using that magic tool. How nice, let me see whether he became somewhat better.” (Hifumi)

Spilling his displeasure since the castle’s soldiers weren’t anything significant, he decided the next target to aim at.

Chapter 66: Who Are You?

The king as well as Yugu couldn't do anything else but being dumbfounded at Hifumi's sudden intrusion.

Veldore, who should be ruling the place if everything went as planned originally, had fainted and didn't even twitch. The enhanced soldier, who had eradicated the designated enemy targets, was waiting for a new order and didn't even quiver.

"You already started, huh?" (Hifumi)

While being troubled with a "I'm

late, eh?", Hifumi calmly surveys the hall's interior.

As he takes an unimpressed look at the spectacle of corpses littering the whole area, he only confirms that there are still people alive.

"You are... it can't be..." (Yugu)

Yugu, knowing of Hifumi's features, shook his head in disbelief.

"Okay, from the fact that you know about me, it means that you are the mastermind of the plan to lure me in, doesn't it?" (Hifumi)

With a "So, you are this country's king?" Hifumi looks at Horant's king, Suprangel.

It was a simple surveying look

without him bearing any malice.

“You are, Orsongrande’s hero... ?” (Suprangel)

As Hifumi drew closer from the entrance without addressing the king’s words, Yugu yelled at the enhanced soldier,

“Just how did you get here while making enemies of all soldiers within the castle... ? Anyway, enhanced soldier! Kill him!” (Yugu)

“At last it starts, eh?” (Hifumi)

The enhanced soldier, charging in from the onset, runs up to him while brandishing the large sword above its head.

“Uuh-ohh?” (Hifumi)

While raising such voice due to the unexpected long reach of the large sword and the movement, that became quicker in comparison to before, Hifumi makes a half step and wedges himself into its bosom.

As soon as there was a sound of crushing, the pommel of Hifumi's katana smashed the armour, including the magic tool at the chest, and the enhanced soldier crumbled down.

"I guess that will happen if you know about its weak point. On top of that, it won't change the point that it doesn't have the ability to thrust." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who shook his head with a sigh mixed in-between, slipped

between the arms of another enemy soldier, who came slashing at him with the sword he held, without even avoiding.

In contrast to Hifumi, who doesn't even move an inch as he firmly set up his stance, the enemy enforced soldier, who bumped into him vigorously, has its chest hit by Hifumi's shoulder, is sent flying and tumbling and stops when hitting the wall at last.

Hifumi, who cuts down another two enhanced soldiers, is watched by Yugu with his face coloured in dread. Horant's king, who stood next to him, watched the way of slaughtering with great interest.

And, another survivor has come to

his senses.

“Gu...” (Veldore)

Veldore, unable to move at once thanks to the headache, groaned for a while staying on the ground, but he was able to comprehend what was happening in his vicinity during that time.

(That man is that aforementioned...) (Veldore)

Even now the enhanced soldiers are getting killed easily within his visual field dyed red with blood.

While I, the royal grandson, am grovelling on the bloodstained floor, that man is gleefully achieving an extremely easy victory.

There was still one enforced soldier, however having its chest severed sideways in a straight line, its entrails were scattered and it fell over.

Using those experimental bodies, I should be getting crowned magnificently in front of the citizens by now, thinking this far, he looked at the throne rebuking his unmoving body and saw the figure of Yugu, who was lying down unable to stand up out of fear, and the king, who showed a calm facial expression for some reason and was still in good health.

“It can’t be...” (Veldore)

Veldore, already dominated by a hatred to destroy all of it, grabbed

his sword with his still numb right hand and the magic tool affixed to his waist.

“I will... break everything...”
(Veldore)

At the time he turns his body over, Yugu who discovered the thing Veldore held in his hands, shouts,

“Veldore-sama! If you use that... !”
(Yugu)

Before he finished speaking the magic tool was forced into Veldore’s chest making Yugu’s restraining words vain.

While seeing this with a sidelong glance as he was in the midst of battle, Hifumi let his feeling show with a quiet smile.

☺☻☺

Hifumi, who quickly broke into the audience hall, of course stormed into the castle without asking any pointless questions, but the soldiers outside the castle couldn't avoid dealing with another problem before calling for reinforcements from within the castle.

"They went that way!" (Soldier)

"Don't let them escape into the city! Get rid of them here!" (Soldier)

The soldiers, moving about in confusion following the orders of the magicians, are chasing the experimental bodies who escaped.

Of course they didn't really escape by themselves but Origa set 4 of

them free close to the castle for the sake of causing a disturbance.

The experimental bodies, which were discovered close to the castle, had already slaughtered several residents, who happened to pass by, as they were possessing weapons for some reason.

The soldier, who discovered this first, immediately called for reinforcements, but even though their numbers increased they haven't been able to capture or kill them until now. Gradually victims among the people and the soldiers are appearing.

Although they have been requesting support while also knowing about the abnormality of the castle, they

have no news about the situation either.

“Tsk! How the hell did they get out of their restraints!?” (Magician)

While cursing in irritation, a single magician arrived at the research institute.

“If I don’t check upon the remaining group…” (Magician)

“There’s no need for that.” (Origa)

The magician, who entered through the open door, was stopped by Origa quickly thrusting her dagger at him.

“Wh…” (Magician)

“You finally came, huh? I got tired

of waiting." (Origa)

During that time, the soldiers of Fokalore have promptly closed the door and entered an approach of wait-and-see by looking outside through a small opened gap.

"I believe it to be faster to ask directly rather than searching the entire institute." (Origa)

While showing a lovely smile with a broad grin, she presses the dagger lightly against the magician's throat.

"As we can't find the stock of magic tools used on them, I'd like you to help us out by telling the location." (Origa)

While saying this, Origa points at

an experimental body limply hanging in the chains restraining it.

“Th-That is...” (Magician)

Suddenly the magician felt his left ear getting hot.

Once he hears a slurping sound, his ear has fallen to the ground.

“U-Ugyaaaa!” (Magician)

“Silence!” (Origa)

Swinging the dagger even more condemning, she chips off the tip of the nose.

“Bueeeee...” (Magician)

“It’s fine for you only tell me the necessary things.” (Origa)

As his mind was already solely focussed on getting away as fast as possible, the magician spilled the vault's location being in a separate building talking rapidly. He ended up crouching while suppressing the blood, which flowed with a dripping sound, with both hands.

"I see. Thank you very much for informing me in detail." (Origa)

Swinging down the dagger straight down the nape of the neck, she wipes the blood with a paper, she took out from her pocket, as if it's a trivial matter.

"Well then, you heard the story just now, right?" (Origa)

The Fokalore soldiers, who saw her

look, nodded while being scared.

“Because it looks like it won’t do to be at this institute for much longer, let’s finish releasing the remaining experimental bodies towards the castle and city.” (Origa)

And thus all the staff members being at the research institute were killed by Origa’s group and the insane, enhanced soldiers were released towards the castle.

“Well then, let’s move as planned.” (Origa)

Within less than 30 minutes Origa’s group escaped from the capital city, Adolamelk.

☺☻☺

“Guuooooooooo!” (Veldore)

As Hifumi sees Veldore fainting in agony with a sidelong glance, he wards off the downward-swung sword of the last enhanced soldier and kills it by slicing the carotid artery with the raised katana.

During that time Veldore, whose appearance with a large head and his muscles having swelled several times across his entire body became strange , stood up slowly.

There’s no sanity left in his eyes anymore. With the blood vessels standing out on the surface of his face, it has even reached the point of fangs having grown on top of his baring teeth.

“The heck is that… ?” (Suprangel)

“It’s the newest magic still under development. Raising the transformation to a level above enhancing the body, the target loses its mind in exchange for explosive power and abnormal physical strength…” (Yugu)

Yugu, in the same condition of having dropped his waist as before, answered the king’s question. Originally he brought it along with the intention use it on someone, if the situation required it, and escape during the resulting chaos.

“Did he fall into despair when the enhanced soldiers were done in? I didn’t expect him to use it on himself.” (Yugu)

“He already even stopped being a human, huh… ? Veldore…”
(Suprangel)

In front of the lamenting king Veldore turned into a giant with a height of 4 m while making groaning sounds. He brought down his fist that had grown to the size of an arm.

Of course his aim was Hifumi.

While even avoiding the fragments of the smashed ground flying about, Hifumi made a big leap and rolled over.

“Practically it is a large monster. Now that it has come to this, the techniques that are used against people won’t cut it, I suppose.”

(Hifumi)

As he throws the kodachi sharply, it pierces the lower leg of Veldore as if being sucked up. But Veldore doesn't stop moving, let alone giving any kind of reaction.

"Looks like he doesn't even have a sense of pain, eh!?" (Hifumi)

He avoids getting crushed by the following largely swung arm by rolling to the side.

Even during that time, Hifumi keeps his eyes open staring at the state of the increased muscles, his physique and movement.

Furthermore Veldore threw the large swords, scattered about within the hall, one after the other at him.

His strength being absurd, each of them pierces the wall and stone floor down to hilt.

“This is already a weapon.” (Hifumi)

While smiling wryly, he tried to repel one of them with his katana, but as expected of the speed and weight, the most he could do was to have it stray from its course.

“W-h-a-t d-o y-ou… Scar-ed, are… n’t yo-u?” (Veldore)

Although the words are groans, broken syllables are audible.

“No.” (Hifumi)

Even though Veldore threw the corpses of the enhanced soldiers

next, Hifumi, who got used to the speed, easily evaded those.

“How enjoyable.” (Hifumi)

Smiling with a broad grin, Hifumi takes the katana, he previously held in only his right hand, into both hands and gets into a firm seigan stance.

“I regret it as I wanted to use it in a match of techniques with a human, but I guess this much is fine. If it’s the strength of a monster, it will be alright.” (Hifumi)

“Guuuuuuuuu…” (Veldore)

While raising his voice as if it was resounding from within his stomach, Veldore grasped his right hand tightly, to the degree of a

grinding sound appearing, in front of Hifumi, who doesn't waver in his firm stance.

"Ugaaaaaaa!" (Veldore)

While facing the approaching straight punch of the tightly grasped right fist, Hifumi doesn't show any inclination to avoid it.

(It's completely like the iron ball used to dismantle buildings.) (Hifumi)

Even while thinking about pointless things like that, he is enveloped in a moderate feeling of tension in order to trace the path of the "feint skill" his body learned before.

Although it was even more unreal than the technique to knock down a

fired arrow he displayed in the slums before, he was successful at testing it out a few times. It's something like having two swords sliding across each other deflecting their round blade tips upwards at the time of thrusting out the swords. Veldore is able to reproduce a similar motion with his fist.

(If I compare them, it becomes easier because the target is so big.) (Hifumi)

Persuading himself, he decides to aim for the second joint of the approaching fist's middle finger.

He had grasped through the earlier observation that Veldore's movement of the joints wasn't any different from normal humans.

Once that was the case, he estimated that he could use a grazing motion with the katana.

The lengthy consideration passed in a moment and he experienced a dry metallic sound in the instant of clashing.

Striking the bone with the katana, the fist passes slightly overhead of Hifumi.

But at the same time it took away the katana which was pierced into the fist.

“Guu!” (Veldore)

The averted fist was outside Veldore’s expectation. But at the same time he was overjoyed at the opponent parting with his weapon.

With this the enemy won't be able to put up a resistance.

In the instant of turning back his sight towards the enemy to smash him at last, that enemy was right in front of his eyes.

The second Hifumi averted the fist, he escaped below Veldore's arms while letting go of his katana and jumped up in front of him planting his knee into his face.

"Don't take your eye off your enemy." (Hifumi)

Stabbing the suntetsu grasped in the right hand into Veldore's chin, he seizes his hair with the left hand.

"Heave... ho" (Hifumi)

As he rotated Veldore's head once, Veldore collapsed raising an earth tremor after his large build twitched for an instant and didn't move afterwards anymore.

"It's not really a swordsmanship match. It's only natural to let go of something like weapons at any time." (Hifumi)

Hifumi, who leapt away to avoid getting dragged down by the falling Veldore, leisurely picked up his katana. Once he confirmed that there was no warp or damage to it, he approached the throne as he held it close to the ground in his right hand.

"... Well done!" (Suprangel)

“Thanks.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi lightly answers the king’s praise.

Unbeknownst whether Yugu had heard this or not, he looked at Hifumi trembling in shivers.

“So, who are you guys?” (Hifumi)

“I’m the king of Horant, Suprangel Gengh Horant.” (Suprangel)

After he named himself, the king looked at the miserably caved-in Yugu besides him.

At the thought of that small-timer, who could do nothing but tremble in fear without even giving his own name, acting as advisor of his grandson, the king judges him to be

pathetic.

“... He is a friend of my grandson, the guy who died just now. They were right at the point of attempting to usurp my position.” (Suprangel)

“Uee!?” (Yugu)

Even though Yugu looks at the king surprised by his words, the king only sighed without looking at him.

“I wonder, why do you think I would protect a bastard like you this late in the game?” (Suprangel)

Due to the king’s words, Yugu tried to escape from his current place in panic. Falling over as his feet were tripped by Hifumi, he struggled to move his feet and hands squirming

like an insect as his back was tread on.

“Your name is?” (Hifumi)

“Hii… hii…” (Yugu)

Seeing that Yugu had no intention to answer, Hifumi looked at Suprangel.

“That guy’s name is Yugu Yutileft. I regret to say it, but he is a noble of this country.” (Suprangel)

“I see.” (Hifumi)

Hearing the king’s words, Hifumi severed Yugu’s neck easily holding his katana in a backhand grip.

“… Well then, Orsongrande’s hero. Do you want to obtain this country

by killing me? No matter how much you even aspire that…" (Suprangel)

"Don't need it, something like a country." (Hifumi)

Muttering that it would be too troublesome, he sheathed the katana.

"… What was that?" (Suprangel)

"I told you, I don't need it. I only fight for the sake of killing people." (Hifumi)

"Wh-What a…" (Suprangel)

For the first time now, the king noticed that the man in front of him wasn't a hero but a lunatic.

"Since I was able to talk with you, I

plan to go back at this point today." (Hifumi)

"D-Do you want to tell me that you don't even want any kind of military exploits having come this far?" (Suprangel)

"Don't need 'em." (Hifumi)

The king immediately saw through that there was no falsehood in Hifumi's eyes, though he still couldn't believe it.

"It's not only this country. It's the same for Vichy and Orsongrande... which reminds me, doesn't there even seem to be an area of beastmen on the other side of this country? Dragging them into it as well, I want to steadily turn this

world into one of fighting and killing each other. And I will have you desperately refine your skills by using schemes to escalate the wars even further." (Hifumi)

Hifumi talks with sparkling eyes similar to a child with a large dream of the future.

"For that reason, I only came here to agitate your country a bit. However, once you mass produce these dolls, who aren't able to use their head in battle, I will crush this country." (Hifumi)

Hifumi snorts as he points at the enhanced soldiers scattered about in the corners thrown away by Veldore.

“Even if I tell you, there’s no way for you to understand unless you have experienced it yourself.” (Hifumi)

“Therefore”, Hifumi continues calmly,

“The magic tools developed by this country to make people ferocious, I decided to use those on suitably strong-looking monsters around the world. Since there will probably be victims here and there in your country before long, you better hurry to think of countermeasures.” (Hifumi)

“I-Impossible!” (Suprangel)

He shouts as he is about to jump off the throne.

“If you do such thing, it will

increase the victims among the populace! Just how much military forces will be necessary to patrol... ?" (Suprangel)

"Therefore, isn't it better to do your best in finding a method to search for the enemy? It's also necessary to consider the possibility of sudden attacks. Though the safety of the highway will be lost as well." (Hifumi)

The king gazes with eyes tinged in panic at Hifumi, who tells him some of the consequences if they don't figure out a method of protection in the future.

"Well, it's fine's if you do your best at thinking of a plan to protect the populace. I've got a suggestion

there, but…” (Hifumi)

It can’t be called anything but the whispers of the devil by now, but Suprangel has no other option but to listen to Hifumi’s words.

“Won’t it be fine if you send soldiers to my territory for training them?” (Hifumi)

“T-This…” (Suprangel)

Although Suprangel was speechless for a little while, at the time he received the report of the experimental bodies having escaped and rampaging around from a soldier, who came rushing, he had decided to follow Hifumi’s proposal including his support as well.

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